



The Maine Siren

Maine Association of Local Emergency Managers

Serving Local Government and Private Sector

Emergency Managers in the State of Maine

since 2009

Information Newsletter – 14th Edition

November 2017



NEWSLETTER

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide information to and between the members of the Association. Please feel free to submit newsworthy information at any time. This is your newsletter and it will be as large and as frequent as is supported by the membership.

The Association is here to improve local emergency management in the State of Maine. Your help with the Association and in recruiting for the Association are vital to ensure that we are able to accomplish this task.

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of September 15, 2017, the Association held:

Saving Account \$6,437.78

Checking Account \$183.20

STATE INCORPORATION

The Maine Association of local Emergency Managers is incorporated with the State of Maine Secretary of State's Office as a Domestic Non-Profit Corporation. MALEM is organized as a public benefit corporation for all purposes permitted under Title 13-B as a Trade Association of Municipal and County Emergency Managers. MALEM is also registered with the IRS as a 501(c) 3 non-profit.

RECRUITING

We need to build MALEM into a premier and active state association whose voice will be heard in every Town Office, County Office and in the State House and the Blaine House.

We currently have 75 paid members. There are nearly 500 municipal emergency managers, and almost 50 county emergency managers; plus the possibility of state and federal emergency managers and private sector emergency managers. You can see that we have only scratched the surface.

We need our current members to spread the word with their peers within their own organizations or in their neighboring towns and counties.



ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President, Alex Hammerle
Vice President, Dale Rowley
Secretary, Donna Allen
Treasurer, Olga Rumney

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WEBSITE

The address for our Association website is: www.malem.org. One thing to note, there is a secure login section that only Association Members can access.

The secure login in section is located under the "Members Only" selection. You will need to register the first time. Click on [register](#) and complete the information requested. Your request will be verified against an up-to-date member listing and approved. You will then receive an email notifying you that your account has been activated and that you will be able to log into the site and access the member only area.

One thing to note – the emails sent out by the website do occasionally end up in junk/spam folders, so look for it there if you don't receive an email within a day or so.

COMMITTEES

Association members are sought for various committees that we hope will be able to improve the emergency management field and our Association. These committees include:

- Certification & Training
- Awards
- Legislative
- Public Information
- Membership
- Public-Private Partnership

Please feel free to e-mail, Alex or Dale if you would like to be a member of one of these committees. We can put you in touch with the Chair of that committee.

Alex: ajhammerle@sanfordmaine.org

Dale: emadirector@waldocountyme.gov

MALEM MERCHANDISE

You can purchase the Official MALEM Patch, Challenge Coin and Lapel Pin. The prices are as follows:

- MALEM Patch - \$3.00
- Challenge Coin - \$7.00
- Lapel Pin - \$3.50

Include \$0.50 per item for postage.



CEM-ME CERTIFICATIONS GRANTED

The Maine Emergency Management County Director's Council (MEMCDC) has granted the Certified Emergency Manager – Maine (CEM-ME) certification to the following individuals:

- Donna Allen, Knox County EMA
- Eric Sawyer, Maine Medical Center
- Andrew Sankey, Hancock County EMA

The CEM-ME program was established in 1999 as a means to raise and maintain professional standards for emergency managers in the State of Maine. The first program manager, Bob Bohlmann, based the CEM-ME in part on the NCCEM CEM program. Dale Rowley took over as the program manager in 2013. There have been a total of 43 people certified and there are currently 28 active CEM-MEs.

Congratulations Donna, Eric and Andrew!

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BENEFITS OF MALEM MEMBERSHIP

Alex Hammerle, the Association President, stated during a recent MALEM Executive Board Meeting, that he felt that it is very important for the Association to promote the benefits and values of being a member of MALEM.

Here's what we have!

- Initial membership comes with a Certificate and a Patch
- Access to a statewide network of fellow emergency managers who can offer solutions, guidance and assistance.
- The Maine Siren, the MALEM newsletter.
- The MALEM Website, with various news and resources, including a "Member's Only" site.
- Assistance and guidance with becoming certified in the MEMCDC's Certified Emergency Manager- Maine (CEM-ME) program.
- Representation on MEMA's "Maine Partner's in Preparedness" Conference planning. Let us know what you would like to see in the annual conference program!
- Speaking before the Maine Legislative's Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee to educate decision-makers about the impact of policies and legislation on emergency management services.
- Representation on Maine Municipal Association's Affiliates Committee, speaking on behalf of MALEM and for local emergency management.
- The opportunity for members to build their professional network of colleagues, as they become involved in the work of MALEM committees.

- Professional recognition of programs, projects and individuals through the MALEM Awards Program.
- Coordination of upcoming emergency management training opportunities.
- Periodic e-mail news that impact the Local Emergency Managers
- Networking with other Maine Local Emergency Managers
- Monthly organizational meetings

..... Speaking of which....

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

All MALEM Executive Board Meetings are on the 1st Friday of the month at 11:00 am.

Contact Olga Rumney at 338-3870 to verify the meeting date and location. Also, if you need to call in, Olga can let you know the conferencall numbers.

- December 1, 2017
- January 5, 2018
- March 2, 2018
- April 6, 2018
- May 4, 2018
- June 1, 2018
- July 6, 2018
- August 3, 2018

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Maine Emergency Management County Director's Council (MEMCDC) is working on draft legislation that would put in statute the power for local jurisdictions (municipal and county) to declare a state of emergency and to implement emergency measures to safeguard life, property and the environment. This draft has been coordinated with the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and the State Worker's Compensation Board. MALEM is asking its members for feedback.

The proposed statute is as follows:

Title 37-B, Chapter 13, MAINE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

§ 783-A Local Emergency Proclamation

1. Local emergency proclamation. The elected officials of each local political subdivision of the State shall have the authority to declare a state of emergency within their jurisdiction. Emergency proclamations must be issued as follows:

A. Whenever a disaster or civil emergency exists or appears imminent, the elected officials of the political subdivision shall, by oral proclamation, declare a state of emergency in the political subdivision or any section of the political subdivision. In addition, the Governor of the State of Maine may also declare a state of emergency in the political subdivision. A written copy of the declaration must be filed with the clerk of the political subdivision, as well as the Maine Emergency Management Agency, within 24 hours of the oral proclamation.

B. Subject at all times to the further direction of the Maine Emergency Management Agency or order of the Governor or the elected officials of the political subdivision, a declaration of a state of emergency shall activate the emergency plans applicable to the affected areas and is the authority for the deployment

and use of any forces or resources to which the plan or plans apply.

C. After the declaration of a state of emergency and in addition to any other powers conferred by law; and notwithstanding exclusive statutory authorities granted to the sheriff's; the elected officials of the political subdivision may:

(1) Suspend the enforcement of any policy prescribing the procedures for conduct of business, if strict compliance with the provisions of the policies would in any way prevent, hinder or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency;

(2) Utilize all available resources of the political subdivision to cope with the disaster emergency;

(3) Transfer the direction, personnel or functions of local departments and agencies, or units thereof for the purposes of performing or facilitating emergency services;

(4) Authorize the obtaining and acquisition of property, supplies and materials pursuant to State Law;

(5) Enlist the aid of any person to voluntarily assist in the effort to control, put out or end the emergency or aid in the caring for the safety of persons. Employment of such persons by the local emergency management director shall comply with Sections 784-A and 823;

(6) Activate all locally-controlled public warning systems that are necessary to warn the public;

(7) Order the termination, temporary or permanent, of any process, operation, machine or device which may be causing or is understood to be the cause of the state of emergency for which this proclamation was made; and

(8) Take whatever action is necessary to abate, clean up or mitigate whatever danger may exist within the affected area;

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(9) Make provision for the availability and use of temporary emergency housing;

(10) The chief law enforcement official for the political subdivision shall have the authority to direct and compel the evacuation of all or part of the population from any stricken or threatened area within the State, if the chief law enforcement official determines this action necessary for the preservation of life or other disaster mitigation, response or recovery;

(11) The chief law enforcement official for the political subdivision shall prescribe routes, modes of transportation and destinations in connection with evacuations;

(12) The chief law enforcement official for the political subdivision shall control ingress and egress to and from a disaster area, the movement of persons within the area and the occupancy of premises therein.

Please feel free to contact Dale Rowley, MALEM Vice-President and member of the MEMCDC Legislative Committee with your recommendations and thoughts.

emadirector@waldocountyme.gov



D4H Decisions

By Dale Rowley, Waldo County EMA

Each County EMA program in the State of Maine has access to an online tool called D4H Decisions. This tool allows the each County to track all volunteers assigned to specific emergency management response teams (EMRT); their contact information, training certifications and qualifications, and activity involvement. This system also can track all EMA equipment, which group or person it is assigned to; inspections, inventory levels and more.

Information from the 16 counties is aggregated and presented on a State D4H Organization Account. In this way, the Maine Emergency Management Agency is able to collect data on exercises, training events, real world events, EMRT assigned personnel and their training levels.

In Waldo County we also track the activity involvement, training qualifications and equipment assigned to all of our municipal Emergency Management Directors. It makes it much easier to determine which classes need to be scheduled depending on the numbers of people needing specific courses.

If you are a local Emergency Management Director or team member of an EMRT, such as HazMat Teams, Search & Rescue Teams, emergency communications teams, incident management teams or CERT units, then I recommend you become aware of and utilize the capabilities of D4H Decisions. Contact your County EMA program to find out more information.

You can find the D4H Blog at:

<https://www.d4htechnologies.com/blog/>

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Maine opted-in for FirstNet

By Bradley Nuding, Hancock County EMA

On August 1st, 2017, Governor LePage acting upon 47 U.S. Code § 1442, authorized Maine to become the 11th state to opt-in to First Responders Network Authority (FirstNet).

The conception of FirstNet, which was created as part of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, is a result from the 2004 9/11 Commission Report that identified a need for increased interoperable capabilities for public safety agencies given the communication barriers first responders faced at the World Trade Center towers. FirstNet is a secure, federally funded, wireless broadband network provided by AT&T throughout the Nation as well as participating territories.

Under the authority of the U.S. Department of Commerce, FirstNet's purpose is to provide a dedicated, interoperability network for voice, data and land mobile radio to be used by public safety agencies during both emergency incidents and planned events such as festivals, sporting venues and concerts.

This nationwide public safety broadband network (NPSBN) will provide 20 MHz of bandwidth in the upper 700 MHz frequency range, which is the equivalent of some commercial carrier's nationwide capacity.

AT&T will begin expanding their infrastructure within the state after assessing what existing municipal equipment may be used to reduce costs and expedite service. AT&T will absorb the financial, operational and technical risks in building, maintaining and upgrading the FirstNet network in Maine for the next 25 years and sell subscriptions to individual departments depending on the agency's service needs.

There are five criteria or datasets that determine where the FirstNet network will be built. These are:

- 1) Number of police, fire and EMS users in a given jurisdiction,
- 2) Public safety high risk/areas of interest,
- 3) U.S. Census block population data,
- 4) Developed areas/buildings, and
- 5) State and Interstate roadways.

These datasets help develop suitable coverage maps on a state-wide basis. FirstNet's implementation plan highlights that excess revenue generated from metropolitan areas will be transferred to develop assets in rural areas at a later date.

An item to consider is that the NPSBN, much like MSCommNet, is a digital system and agencies that have analog two-way radios will still be required to use RegionNet Repeaters to link communications with state agencies.

The cost of upgrading communication equipment from P25 capable, to P25 compliant, let alone the departments that have radios that are not even P25 capable, may not be feasible for small departments. Which is currently why the majority of local agencies are not operating on MSCommNet and rely heavily on RegionNet.

Additionally, municipalities will need to determine the parameters around purchasing mobile devices needed to interface with other agencies using NPSBN and the features that come with a subscription with FirstNet for fire departments consisting of an all-volunteer staff.

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Disaster Preparedness Starts With You

Dona Allen, Knox County EMA

Disasters such as Floods, Forest Fires, Hazardous Materials Spills and Winter Storms can strike Knox County; some with little or no warning. Are you prepared to take care of yourself and your family?

In major disaster events, you may not be able to rely on local fire, police and emergency medical services to immediately assist you. As you saw in recent hurricanes HARVEY, IRMA and MARIA, conditions may at times be too dangerous to send help. Each individual and family should take actions before a disaster strikes to prepare themselves and their families to protect and care for one another. That is called Disaster Preparedness.

The biggest hurdle we have in Emergency Management is convincing people that disasters CAN happen to them. We often compare Disaster Preparedness to keeping your home insured or wearing seatbelts. You don't buy homeowner insurance or wear seatbelts because you ARE going to have a fire or an accident; you do these things because you might! Disaster preparedness, like other measures allows you some peace of mind that if the worst happens, you and your family are more ready to "weather the storm".

Maine has experienced terrible forest fires, lengthy power outages, severe winter storms and flooded homes, roads and downtowns. Not being prepared for a disaster can have severe repercussions for you. Preparedness can reduce or save you and your family from hardship or distress or, at the very least major inconvenience. Why not be Prepared?

Here are some things you can start to be more prepared:

1. Make an emergency plan - Gather your family together to discuss communication, escape routes, Utility shut-off and Safety, insurance and vital records, special needs, caring for animals, and safety skills. Have an emergency checklist.

2. Create a disaster supply kit. This means having your own food, water and other supplies in sufficient quantity to last at least 3 days. Keep a smaller version of a disaster supply kit in the car. You can do this a little at a time!

3. Stay Informed. Find out how you will get emergency information such as storm or evacuation alerts. Learn where your closest community, warming or Red Cross shelter is located. Know when and how to shelter-in-place. If you have a generator, learn how to use it safely.

For more information call us at 594-5155 or go to:

www.knoxcountymaine.gov/ema

and these other resources

- Shelter information: www.211maine.org
- Weather: www.erh.noaa.gov/er/gyx/
- Are You Ready?: www.fema.gov/areyouready
- Maine Prepares: www.maine.gov/prepare
- Ready.Gov: www.ready.gov
- Volunteer Maine: www.volunteermaine.org
- 211 Maine: www.211maine.org
- Flu in Maine: www.maineflu.gov
- Disability Preparedness: www.disabilitypreparedness.gov

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MALEM STRATEGIC PLAN

Approved: April 25, 2017

MISSION STATEMENT: To foster excellent community Emergency Management programs throughout the State of Maine.

OBJECTIVES/TASKS:

A. To promote recognition of the importance of the community Emergency Manager.

1. Develop a white paper that describes how Emergency Management benefits our communities.
2. Educate Elected Officials and the Public on the need for effective and comprehensive Emergency Management programs.
3. Encourage statewide community Emergency Managers to join the Association.
4. Update the brochure that promotes the Association.
5. Lobby for a basic certification requirement for Emergency Managers in the State of Maine.
6. Maintain and advertise an Association Awards program.
7. Maintain an Association Web Site to promote the Association.
8. Develop and release Association press releases to local media.

B. To promote active, effective and adequately funded local emergency management programs.

1. Lobby the Maine Legislature to adequately fund emergency management programs.

2. Encourage the use of public and private grants to build stronger Emergency Management programs.

3. Develop a peer-review program for performing Local Capability Assessments for Readiness (CAR) reviews.

4. Inform Municipal Officials and community Emergency Managers on the existing state laws.

C. To strengthen the proficiency and knowledge of community Emergency Managers.

1. Support the IAEM CEM and Maine CEM-ME program.
2. Develop an Association Training & Education program.
3. Build a core of Emergency Management instructors.
4. Develop a library of example documents, best practices, resources and other materials for members to use as guidance.
5. Maintain a database of member proficiencies.

D. To create an Emergency Management network to foster greater partnerships.

1. Hold an Annual Meeting in conjunction with the Maine Partners in Preparedness Conference.
2. Encourage participation in regular County-Municipal Emergency Manager's meetings.
3. Identify Emergency Management contacts within the Private Sector.
4. Develop a network between Public and Private Sector Emergency Managers.



August 25, 2017

PRESS RELEASE

Searsport, Maine Resident Graduates from FEMA's Emergency Management Advanced Academy

Emmitsburg, MD-Gayle McKeige graduated from FEMA's National Emergency Management Advanced Academy (formerly the Leaders Academy) at the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, MD., after she completed the full curriculum that provides the strategic level training and education in the essential skills and tools for emergency management professionals to lead dynamic and resilient programs. She is the first person from Maine to complete this course.

McKeige completed the four resident courses with three short distance learning sessions in the Advanced Academy including: A Survey of Advanced Concepts in Emergency Management, Assessment and Application of Professional Style in Emergency Management, Advanced Concepts and Issues in the Emergency Management Organization and Advanced Concepts and Issues in the Emergency Management Community and Profession.

FEMA's National Emergency Management Advanced Academy reinforces the qualities needed to lead emergency management programs, provides relevant management theories and concepts, and utilizes appropriate case studies. By working within their series, Advanced Academy participants work within a collaborative environment on projects and establish a network of their peers. The Academy is designed for emerging leaders and mid-level managers wanting to advance their skillset. Students learn skills critical to performing leadership responsibilities such as program management and oversight, effective communication at all levels, integrated collaboration, and strategic thinking. The Advanced Academy provides students the opportunity to demonstrate their critical thinking ability through a guided research project. Students apply the key learning concepts from the Advanced Academy curriculum relative to their own skillsets and abilities within their organizations, and their own performance environments.

FEMA's Emergency Management Professional Program (EMPP) curriculum is designed to provide a lifetime of learning for emergency managers and includes three separate, but closely threaded, training programs including the National Emergency Management Basic Academy; a specialized and technical training program to develop specific, fundamental skill sets; the National Emergency Management Advanced Academy; and the National Emergency Management Executive Academy; a program designed to challenge and enhance the talents of the nation's emergency management senior executives through critical thinking, visionary strategic planning, challenging conventional concepts, and negotiation and conflict resolution applied to complex real-world problems.

McKeige completed her training on August 25, 2017. She then deployed to Hurricane Harvey as a member of NDMS.

For more information on FEMA's training classes through the Basic, Advanced, and Executive Academies, or other emergency management courses, go to: <http://training.fema.gov/empp/>.

Photo by **Shane Gibbon**



Emmitsburg, MD August 25, 2017--FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) graduated Gayle Mckeige who completed all requirements of the National Emergency Management Advanced Academy. Doug Kuhns, Advanced Academy Program Director of EMI is shown congratulating McKeige as she graduates. Shane Gibbon /FEMA

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

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