



The Maine Siren

Maine Association of Local Emergency Managers
Serving Municipal and County Emergency Managers
Information Newsletter – 10th Edition
October 2015



President's Message

I can hardly believe that it has been six months since our annual meeting. We've been fortunate to have been relatively disaster free this spring and summer, and I hope that this message finds all of you well. When we met back in April, I talked about a number of things that I think are really important for MALEM to grow into the organization that it can and should be. So, this message is intended to let you know about some of the things that we have been doing and some of what is yet to come.

All of you should have received a resource matrix by e-mail. To the best of my knowledge, this is the first time that anyone has established a list of the qualifications of emergency managers in the State of Maine. I think it will be a tremendous resource for you and really adds value to your membership. Suppose, for instance, that you are working on preparing an exercise and need some help developing injects. You can go to the matrix and identify some contacts under HSEEP, or even a Master Exercise Practitioner, and contact them for some assistance. These subject matter experts are offering to share their expertise with you!

We've entered into an agreement with Maine Municipal Association to develop and host our website. We'll be putting on a full court press over the coming few months to get a new website up and running, so if you have ideas about what you would like to see, please get them to me.

I provided a presentation at the MMA Annual Convention. This year the program showed how municipalities can access EMPG funds to

support their local emergency management programs, and I used the opportunity to sell the MALEM membership concept to municipal leaders. I am hopeful that this will help meet the goals of enhancing our visibility and increasing our membership level.

You have all seen some of my e-mails regarding training. I am now working to put together a work group including people from a variety of disciplines to establish training needs, develop a training plan, and provide training in our region. I am also working on developing a new emergency manager orientation program in cooperation with people in York County, and hope eventually to bring it to the County Director's Council as a resource. If you would like to participate in the training work group, I would like to hear from you.

I appeared before the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology in Augusta and submitted written testimony on behalf of emergency managers regarding LD1363. This bill would have provided some relatively inexpensive protections to the electric distribution grid that would have significantly reduced the risk of large scale, long duration power outages from electromagnetic disturbances. Unfortunately, the bill failed to make it through committee by one vote.

The next several months also promise to be busy. We'll be working with MEMA on preparations for the conference next spring, starting work on a membership drive, and we may even get started on a review of the MALEM strategic plan.



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I love getting your feedback. Please remember that this is YOUR MALEM. I want to hear from you about what you think we're doing well, but also about anything that you think we could be doing better. Tell me about what your needs are as a local Emergency Manager and how MALEM can help you. If you're interested in becoming more involved, I want to hear that too.

Respectfully,
Alex Hammerle, President

Association Officers

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

Treasurer's Report

As of October 9, 2015, the Association held:

Saving Account \$6,248.82



Association Estudio

MALEM has an online cloud-based tool called Estudio. This collaboration tool requires a login, which you should get when you join. However, if you did not or if you forgot your login, contact Dale Rowley at:

emadirector@waldocountyme.gov

and he can reset your password. The website address is:

<http://www.same-page.com/studio/v7/>

Estudio has an area called the Workspace which is an online "filing cabinet" for storing documents. All members can upload and view any documents that have been posted. Do you have an exercise after action report or an emergency plan that you would like others to see? You can upload the file to Estudio and others can then download it and view it.

Estudio also has a calendar for posting and viewing events; a discussion – chat room; and you can e-mail any other MALEM members.

Please feel free to login and explore the MALEM Estudio. If you have any difficulties, you can contact Dale and he will help if he can.



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Maine Responds

(...not just for healthcare workers anymore!)

Whether in response to a growing awareness and support for things like National Preparedness Month in September or a possible reaction to one of the most devastating wildfire seasons in recent history, there has been a surge in volunteer interest from disaster preparedness and healthcare partners around the state. To accommodate this influx of volunteer interest, Maine Responds is adding an alternative date and location for a pre-winter new volunteer orientation.

Maine Responds is Maine's statewide registry for public health emergency preparedness and disaster response and recovery volunteers. Originally designed to organize Maine's official medical response to disasters, the registry now includes Medical Reserve Corps units, individual medical and non-medical volunteers, Maine's Disaster Behavioral Health Team, Public Health Officers, Local Emergency Management Directors, Health Inspectors and numerous other emergency management and public health volunteers around the state.

A common communication structure—that all volunteer responders can use—is first introduced to Maine Responds volunteers at volunteer orientation. Local and County EMA directors can both support this registry (by registering) as well as access this resource if a medical or other public health emergency develops during an event and volunteers from outside of your jurisdiction are needed. Integrating these volunteers (no matter what the

need) is supported by common language training and ICS 100, 700 and 800 trainings which are all part of the orientation process.

With volunteer responders stemming from a vast array of professional backgrounds—including healthcare, law enforcement, fire & rescue, emergency management as well as community planners, local health coalitions, school nurses and other interested volunteers—Maine Responds is the main tool used to manage such a diverse team of talent.

Registering at MaineResponds.org is the first step in becoming a public health volunteer, and New Volunteer Orientation is the essential next step in achieving active status as a volunteer.

Visit www.maineresponds.org today to register to be part of the official state registry of public health emergency and disaster volunteers. Email jared.mccannell@maine.gov for more information about upcoming volunteer orientation dates and locations (or any other questions about Maine Responds).

Jared McCannell
Volunteer Management Coordinator
Public Health Emergency Preparedness
Program (CDC)

