

NEWS FROM DOWN UNDER

Volume III, Issue I

January 2010

County of Cumberland

Emergency
Management
Agency

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Public Safety, Emergency Management and Allied Organizations are invited to submit articles, events, training opportunities and news.

*Send to: David B. Feeney
feeney@cumberlandcounty.org*



MeCDC H1N1 Update

H1N1 Vaccine Encouraged for All Mainers

MeCDC: Released—December 23, 2009

Flu Activity in Maine and the US

Data indicate that H1N1 flu has been relatively mild in Maine compared with other states, and continues to decline. There have been no new deaths since the last update (December 17).

There were 9 new hospitalizations last week, down from 11 the prior week, and across all age groups. There were no new admissions to intensive care. Individuals were hospitalized in Cumberland, Franklin, Kennebec, Oxford, Penobscot, Washington, and York counties.

Outbreaks were reported in one long term care facility and two K-12 schools. The outbreaks occurred in Penobscot, Somerset, and York counties.

Flu comes in waves. Protect yourself and those you care about by getting vaccinated before the next wave.

H1N1 Vaccine Supply and Prioritization

To date, we have received a total of about 575,000 doses of H1N1 vaccine in Maine, and by the first week of January we expect to have about 675,000 total cumulative doses – enough for about half of the state's population. Based on recent demand, Maine CDC is now recommend-

ing that H1N1 vaccine be offered to anyone who wishes to receive it when local supplies allow.

The focus for vaccine will still be the five high priority groups as defined by US CDC, but in many places public clinics will not need to turn others away. We are encouraging health care providers with sufficient supply to provide vaccine to all who want it, and those without sufficient vaccine to focus their vaccine supply to those in the high priority groups: pregnant and recently pregnant women; household members and caregivers of infants younger than six months old; all people ages 6 months through 24 years; people ages 25 through 64 with underlying health conditions; and health care and EMS workers.

We expect vaccine to be more readily available in retail pharmacies over the next several weeks, in addition to public clinics, doctors' offices, and through occupational health and certain large-scale employers.

Vaccine Recall

On December 18 and 21, MedImmune notified CDC and FDA that the potency of 13 lots of monovalent 2009 nasal spray vaccine has decreased below a pre-specified limit or were at risk of falling below that limit in the next week. This slight decrease in vaccine potency is not expected to have an impact on the protective response to

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Emergency Management

Emergency Management is the assessment, analysis, planning, and assignment of available resources to prevent, prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of all types of hazards or emergencies.

Emergency Management is a comprehensive system of policies, practices, and procedures designed to save lives, prevent injuries, and protect property and the environment if an emergency occurs.

Bomb Making Materials Awareness Program (BMAP)

The **Bomb Making Materials Awareness Program (BMAP)** is a national program sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security's Office for Bombing Prevention. BMAP is designed to increase public and private sector awareness of homemade explosives (HME), a common terrorist improvised explosive device (IED) tactic. BMAP materials are currently available to key private sector partners in order to engage businesses and encourage them to play a role in national IED awareness with minimal resource investment.

Developed in cooperation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, BMAP is designed to assist local law enforcement agencies to engage a wide spectrum of private sector establishments within their jurisdictions that manufacture, distribute, or sell products that contain HME precursor chemicals. BMAP outreach materials, provided by law enforcement to these local businesses, will help employees to identify more easily relevant HME precursor chemicals and other critical IED components of concern, such as electronics, as well as to recognize suspicious purchasing behavior that could indicate bomb-making activity. The program simultaneously encourages a stronger relationship between businesses and local law enforcement organizations, reinforcing the foundation of effective community safety and security. The importance of educating employees at the point of sale cannot be overstated, since the point of purchase is the first line of defense in preventing the sale of HME precursor chemicals to suspect individuals.



BMAP Materials:

- * Register Cards and Break Room Posters
 - o Peroxide Awareness
 - o Hazardous Chemical Awareness
 - o Suspicious Behavior Awareness
- Law Enforcement User Guide
- Letters to the Community

For more information or to obtain copies of the Fact Sheets, go to:

[http://www.fbiic.gov/public/2009/oct/BMAP_Fact_Sheet_\(August%2009\).doc](http://www.fbiic.gov/public/2009/oct/BMAP_Fact_Sheet_(August%2009).doc)

For more information on IED security programs and initiatives contact:

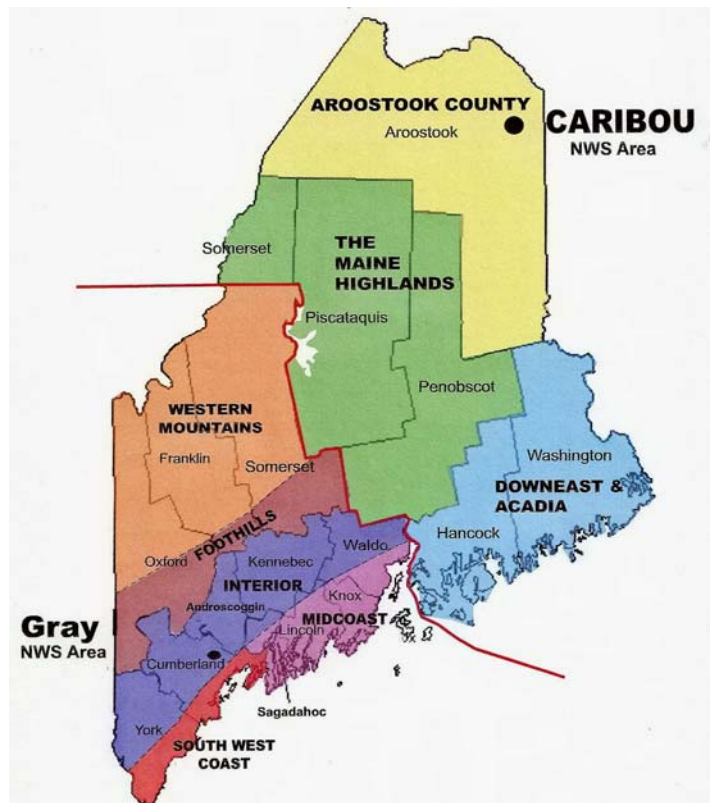
DHS Office for Bombing Prevention
703-235-5723 | OBP@dhs.gov



BMAP Benefits:

- Private sector-point of sales awareness
- Law enforcement-private sector partnerships
- Community-based policing
- Free, secure access to training and awareness materials
- Consistent messaging

Maine Weather Regions



Design by Beth Barton—MEMA

FEMA/FCC Emergency Alerts Via Mobile Devices

Release Date: December 7, 2009
Release Number: HQ-09-148

WASHINGTON D.C. -- As part of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS), the nation's next generation of emergency alert and warning networks, the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) today announced the adoption of the design specifications for the development of a gateway interface that will enable wireless carriers to provide its customers with timely and accurate emergency alerts and warnings via their cell phones and other mobile devices.

The Commercial Mobile Alert System (CMAS) is one of many projects within IPAWS intended to provide emergency managers and the President of the United States a means to send alerts and warnings to the public. Specifically, CMAS provides Federal, state, territorial, tribal and local government officials the ability to send 90 character geographically targeted text messages to the public regarding emergency alert and warning of imminent threats to life and property, Amber alerts, and Presidential emergency messages. The CMAS is a combined effort of the federal government and cellular providers to define a common standard for cellular alerts.

Today's announcement marks the beginning of the 28-month period, mandated by the FCC in August 2008, for commercial mobile service providers who have elected to participate in the design specifications known as CMAS to develop, test and deploy the system and deliver mobile alerts to the public by 2012.

"Working as a team with our partners in the public and private sectors, the adoption of the CMAS standard brings us even closer to making the nation's next-generation of emergency alerts and warnings – Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) – a reality," said FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate. "Our goal is simple, to give one message over more devices to more people for maximum safety."

Today's announcement brings us one step closer to ensuring that Americans receive critical emergency alerts and warnings to protect themselves on the go, anywhere, anytime," said FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski. "I applaud FEMA for its leadership and look forward to working with both FEMA and the wireless industry to expedite the delivery of this important public safety service to consumers."

Wireless carriers who choose to participate in the CMAS will relay authorized text-based alerts to their subscribers. To ensure that persons with disabilities who subscribe to wireless services receive these emergency alerts, the FCC adopted rules in 2008 that will require participating wireless carriers to transmit messages with both vibration cadence and audio attention signals.

The adoption of CMAS culminates the collaborative specification development work between FEMA, the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate (DHS S&T), the Alliance of Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS), and the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) and begins the next phase of CMAS collaboration with industry in which FEMA will build the Federal Alert Aggregator/Gateway. This collaboration with industry is a key component of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) Programs' ability to provide alerts and warnings to the public through as many means as possible, including commercial mobile services.

Community Events (Large Gatherings)

- January 1, 2010, Friday
New Years Day—Holiday
- **January 18, 2010, Monday**
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day—Holiday
- **February 2, 2010, Tuesday**
Groundhog's Day
- **February 14, 2010, Sunday**
St. Valentine's Day
- **February 15, 2010, Monday**
President's Day—Holiday

Future Meetings:

- January 6, 2010, Wednesday—1:00 p.m.
Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
- January 13, 2010, Wednesday—8:30 a.m.
Local EMA Director's Meeting
CCEMA, 22 High Street, Windham, Maine
- January 19, 2010, Tuesday—6:30 p.m.
Cumberland County ARES Meeting
CCEMA, 22 High Street, Windham, Maine
- February 6, 2010, Saturday—8:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
Initial Planning Conference—Wild Land Fire TTX
Cornish Fire Department

Homeland Security Grant Opportunity for Law Enforcement Announced

December 17, 2009

The Maine Emergency Management Agency has announced a grant opportunity for County, local and tribal law enforcement agencies.

A portion of federal Homeland Security Grant Program funds are targeted annually toward law enforcement. Since MEMA received only a small number of applications in the most recent HSGP application period, a portion of the funds were set aside for competitive grants to law enforcement agencies.

A total of \$95,000 is available for allocation under this special competitive process. The grant application period is now open; guidance documents and applications may be downloaded from the Maine Homeland Security website.

Grant applications must be submitted to County Emergency Management Agencies by close of business Friday, January 29, 2010.

Eligible applicants are city, county and tribal law enforcement agencies only. Applicants must also be compliant with National Incident Management System (NIMS) requirements. For this special grant period, based on State and Federal Homeland Security priorities, grant application criteria is focused solely on:

Interoperable communications, specifically for projects designed to both improve interoperable communications capabilities and to improve jurisdictions' ability to comply with the December 31, 2012 narrow band frequency standards.

Awards are projected to be announced in March.

Contact: Bill DeLong, MEMA 207-624-4400

CDP Authorized State ICS 300/400 Trainers

The Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) is supporting an initiative to assist State, Territory, and Local efforts to establish training capacity by giving State Administrative Agencies (SAA) the option of authorizing trainers in their state who have fully met the NIMS Integration Center requirements to qualify as Lead Instructor for an ICS 300 or ICS 400 Course. The CDP is prepared to support the ICS 300/400 qualified trainers by supplying all materials necessary to conduct training. Materials include: student

manuals, trainer information form, student enrollment forms, post test kit, and return envelope with shipping label. Each class will be processed at the CDP and certificates of completion will be sent to the trainer for disbursement to students.

To be considered for the CDP SAA ICS Trainer Program applicants must complete ICS 100, 200, 300, IS 700 and IS 800 (or E449/L449) as an ICS 300 Trainer, and ICS 400 when applying as an ICS 400 Trainer and provide copies of all certificates to the MEMA Training Officer (SAA).

The authorization process will need to be initiated by the SAA (Maine Training Officer—MEMA) and will work as follows:

1. Applicant will complete Form 138—ICS Trainer Enrollment and forward, along with copies of requisite ICS certificates, to the SAA.
2. SAA will sign letter of approval.
3. Copies of all certificates required must be supplied to the CDP through the SAA, or the SAA will sign a Statement of Verification that the applicant has met all NIMS Integration Center requirements.

For more information and to obtain a copy of FEMA Form 138, contact: David B. Feeney—CCEMA (207) 892-6785 feeney@cumberlandcounty.org

2010 Exercise Schedule

- February 6, 2010, Saturday
Initial Planning Conference (IPC)
Tri-County Wild Land Fire Tabletop Exercise
Location: Cornish Fire Department
Contact: David B. Feeney—CCEMA
- April 24, 2010, Saturday
Tri-County Wild Land Fire Tabletop Exercise
Location: Sacopee Valley Middle School
Contact: David B. Feeney—CCEMA
- June 5, 2010, Saturday
Portland JetPort Full Scale Exercise
Contact: Lt. Janine Roberts—Portland PD
- October 2010 (Proposed)
Tri-County Wild Land Fire Functional Exercise
Contact: David B. Feeney—CCEMA

December—It's Cold From the MEMA Director:

December 14, 2009

Last month I wrote about getting ready for winter. Now it's here. It stays dark later in the morning, and gets dark earlier in the afternoon. And it's cold.

This winter, like any other, we have to be prepared for the worst that Nature throws at us. Last December, a major ice storm paralyzed the southern part of our state. As bad as it was for us, it was many times worse for our neighbors in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. And, we have already experienced what could easily have been a serious Nor'easter.

For us, the measuring stick for winter storms remains the January Ice Storm of 1998. But just two winters ago, record snows capped off with an April blizzard pounded Aroostook County, exhausting the financial resources – and patience – of even those stalwart folks.

All those preparations I talked about last month are important to remember this December as we head into the heart of winter. And, there is a wealth of preparedness and safety information at [MainePrepares](http://maine.gov/mema/prepare)

<http://maine.gov/mema/prepare>

As always, when the cold winds blow, it is most important that we make sure the most vulnerable among us can stay safe and warm.

For all of us:

- For the holidays, consider some practical gifts that can help in an emergency. Crank up weather radios, flash lights or cell-phone chargers might very well prove more welcome than the latest video.
- Check often on friends and relatives who might be too proud to ask for help
- If you or a friend are running low on fuel and need help, try not to wait too long to ask for assistance. It is much easier and cheaper to arrange assistance, and schedule fuel deliveries during business hours, Monday through Friday

Always, dial 2-1-1 to find out about resources in your area that might be able to help with fuel.

Businesses:

- Winter storms may interfere with both sales and supplies or merchandise deliveries. Can your business bridge the gap?

- Winter can also bring delays in propane, or sometimes fuel oil supplies. If your business depends on one of these fuels, keep a close eye on your supply.

Your customers rely on you for their well-being. Will you be there for them when they need you?

Officials:

- 211 Maine is a great source of information for Maine people. Check out your town contact information, especially your after-hours contacts, at 211maine.org, to make sure your information is up to date. If you know of other sources of help in your area, make sure they are listed as well. Call 211 to provide the information if it is not there.

Does your town have a formal – or informal – program to check on shut-ins, or those with a disability? If you have a sign-up process for this service, this is a good time to remind folks about it.

Ice storms? Tough economic times? The H1N1 flu? This could be a tough winter. If we do some thinking and preparing ahead of time, and if we all look out for each other, we can handle whatever Mother Nature throws our way. And spring will be here sooner than we think.

Please, contact me, and let me know your thoughts.

Sincerely,

Rob McAleer, Director,
Maine Emergency Management Agency

2010 Training Opportunities

- **February 03, 2010, 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.**
Incident Command System: ICS-300—Part I
- **February 10, 2010, 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.**
Incident Command System: ICS-300—Part II
Location: Oakland Fire Department
Pre-register and attend both sessions are required
Prerequisites: IS700, ICS100 and ICS200.
Contact: Kennebec County EMA (207) 623-8407
kclepc@kennebeccounty-me.gov.
or
Contact: Somerset County EMA (207) 474-6788
EmergencyManagement@SomersetCounty-ME.org
- **April 29—30, 2010**
Maine Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference, 2nd Annual
Location: Augusta Civic Center

Cumberland County EMA Activity Highlights

CCEMA H1N1 Update

H1N1 vaccine shortages are resolved and vaccine is flowing into the State at an excellent rate. Coordination is ongoing at the County level, through the Maine Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (MCDC) appointed vaccine coordinator, for vaccinations of the general public. It is anticipated that multiple public clinics will be held throughout the County during the month of January.

Cumberland County IMAT

CCEMA has received more than a dozen excellent applications for participation in the County's Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT). An initial meeting for the team is being planned for February, 2010. The desire is to build a team of not less than 30 personnel. The Mission of the IMAT will be to "assist local jurisdictions and their response agencies in managing significant incidents or preparing for events and to support Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) response during major emergencies." The availability of a trained, cohesive IMAT to respond to an incident and to assist the incident commander and/or jurisdiction in the response to and recovery from it will dramatically improve local control and capability.

Cumberland County Hazard Mitigation Plan

A Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) is a "community-driven, living document that focuses on developing a strategy to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to its citizens and property from natural hazards." The County's initial version of the HMP plan was completed in December, 2005 and it is required to be rewritten every 5 years. Thus, the target completion date for HMP revision is December, 2010. To tackle this task will require \$64,000.00; 75% of it provided by the Federal government and a 25% match required by the County government. CCEMA received \$48,000.00 in Federal funding and the County match (\$16,000.00) is being requested in the FY 2010 County Capital Improvement Program (CIP) portion of the County budget. All Cumberland County Municipalities will be required to participate in the development of the HMP and many have already contributed to the effort

MeCDC H1N1 Update

Continued from Cover Page

vaccination. There are no safety concerns with these lots of 2009 H1N1 vaccine. **This is not a safety recall.**

Recommendations

The potency of these lots is now or might soon be slightly below the specified range for the product. CDC and FDA are in agreement that the slight decrease in vaccine potency is not expected to have an impact on the protective response to vaccination. **For this reason, there is no need to revaccinate persons who have received vaccine from these lots.**

People who received vaccine from the recalled lots do not need to take any action. Children and adults aged 10 years and older who received the vaccine do not need any further doses of vaccine. As is recommended for all 2009 H1N1 vaccines, all children younger than 10 years old should get the recommended two doses of 2009 H1N1 vaccine approximately a month apart. Therefore, children younger than 10 years old who have only received one dose of vaccine thus far should still receive a second dose of 2009 H1N1 vaccine. It is best to use the same type of vaccine for the first and second doses.

Maine CDC will be contacting all Maine providers who received doses from any of the 13 lots of vaccine so that they can return any unused vaccine.

Important Information for Vaccine Administrators

All public clinics **must** be posted on the Maine CDC's clinic locator: www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/maineflu/fluclinics/clinic-form.shtml.

All H1N1 vaccine providers and/or administrators **must** submit the vaccine administration data into Maine CDC's weekly vaccine reporting system.

The availability of H1N1 or seasonal flu vaccine can be determined by calling 211, checking <http://www.maineflu.gov> or calling your health care provider.

For a complete unedited copy of these updates, go to the Maine CDC website: www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh





Important Links

Cumberland County Emergency Management Agency
Home: www.cumberlandcounty.org/EMA

Maine Emergency Management Agency
Home: www.maine.gov/mema
Library: www.maine.gov/mema/mema_library.shtml

Maine Prepares
Home: www.maine.gov/mema/prepare

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
Home: www.fema.gov
Training: <http://training.fema.gov>
Grants: www.fema.gov/government/grant/index.shtm
Assistance: www.DisasterAssistance.gov

Domestic Preparedness Support
U. S. Department of Homeland Security www.dhs.gov
NIMS Resource Center <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims>
Lessons Learned Information Sharing System
www.llis.gov
Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP)
<http://hseep.dhs.gov>

Center Disease Control
Maine CDC: (H1N1)
<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/swine-flu-2009.shtml>

U. S. CDC: (H1N1) <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu>
Flu.gov <http://www.pandemicflu.gov>

Southern Maine Regional Resource Center (SMRRC)
Home: www.smrrc.org

Ready America www.ready.gov

National Weather Service—Gray, Maine
www.erh.noaa.gov/gyx

Maine ARES <http://www.maineares.org>

2-1-1 Maine
Home: www.211maine.org

5-1-1 Maine (Maine DOT Travel Information)
Home: www.511maine.gov

American Red Cross of Southern Maine
Home: <http://southernmaine.redcross.org>

PROP
Home: www.wherepeoplecomefirst.org

Southern Maine EMS
Home: www.smems.org

Volunteer Maine
Home: www.volunteermaine.org

Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG)
Home: www.gpcog.org



Monthly Communications Test

January 14, 2009, at 1330 hours.

- Log onto WebEOC
- HAN Notification—1330 hours
- Conference Call—1345 hours
- Radio Check—1400 hours

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