



## **Rhode Island Emergency Management Advisory Council**

Meeting Notice

THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE HELD:

**September 19, 2006**

**2:30 PM**

The Rhode Island Emergency Management Headquarters  
645 New London Ave. – Cranston, RI  
General's Conference Room

## **Minutes**

Lt. Governor Charles J. Fogarty  
Christopher Albert, Lt. Gov. Office  
Robert Warren, RIEMA  
Col. Brian Goodwin, RING  
Richard James, RIFM  
Lt. David Hayden, RISP  
James Lanni, RIPUC  
Tom Kilday, RIDOH  
L. Anthony Cirillo, RIDOH  
Dawn Lewis, HARI  
Joseph Salter, TSA  
Tom McMillan, Exeter EMA  
Janice McClanaghan, RI Energy Resources  
Ray Labelle, E-911  
Chief Bill McKenna, USAR  
John Wheeler, N. Prov Fire Dept.  
Lt. Scott Caron, Smithfield Fire Dept.  
Nancy Smith Green, US. Dept HUD  
Amanda Milkovits, Projo  
Geof Milner, SATERN

Richard Brown, City Manager E. Prov.  
Al Araujo, Pawtucket EMA  
Leo Kennedy, Cranston Fire Dept.  
Todd Manni, Prov. EMA  
Nicole White, Prov. EMA  
Mike Mulhare, RIDEM  
Pam Pouge, RIEMA  
Brian Pires, US Attorney Office  
Lori Needham, RIBA  
Tom Walsh, TSA Rail Boston  
Mike McDonough, TSA Rail Boston  
Robert Thorne, TSA TF Green  
Kara Nymeyr, House Fiscal  
Ron Pigeon, USCG  
John Healey, USCG  
Douglas Brown, RIPTA  
Normand Menard, Red Cross  
John Fulton, RIDOH  
Diana Arcand, RIEMA  
David Leonard, RIEMA

### **I. Call to Order/ Attendance**

Chairman Fogarty called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

## **II. Approval of the minutes from August 15, 2006.**

Minutes of August 15, 2006 meeting were approved.

## **III. Introduction**

### ***A. Comments from the Chairman, Lt. Governor Charles J. Fogarty***

Chairman Fogarty introduced Lori Needham, Rhode Island Broadcasters Association, who will be working with EMA and the council.

Chairman Fogarty announced that Ramone Martines (not in attendance) is working to form a community preparedness committee.

### ***B. Comments from the Vice Chairman, MG Robert Bray***

General Bray was attending a conference in New Mexico and was not present at the meeting. Col. Brian Goodwin represented General Bray and gave an update on National Guard deployments and returns.

## **IV. Operation Greystone Exercise- John Wheeler, Director of Safety and Training, North Providence Fire Department**

John Wheeler, Director of Safety and Training, North Providence Fire Dept., updated the council on Operation Greystone, an exercise which simulated a building collapse resulting from a structure fire. The successful exercise occurred September 8-10 2006 with the objectives of encompassing the multiple jurisdictions and establishing a unified command structure, with notification and use of state resources. Participating organizations were North Providence Fire, Johnston Fire, Smithfield Fire, Pawtucket Fire, State EMA, State USAR, and the North Providence Police Department. Mr. Wheeler stated that the drill went very well and gave all involved the opportunity to have a real time drill which will allow evaluation and lessons learned and that an after-action report is currently being compiled which he will submit to the council for review.

Chairman Fogarty stated the need for increased Federal Homeland Security funding to continue these important training exercises.

## **V. Urban Search and Rescue Team (USAR) Update**

Chief Bill Mckenna, Assistant Task Force Leader for Urban Search and Rescue gave an update. Chief Mckenna stated that USAR is a support organization, 110 members strong, covering all fields, from rescue and technical rescue to Hazmat and engineering services. Chief Mckenna stated that USAR recently received grant money to purchase vehicles for transportation of equipment, and training exercises. Recent training exercises have included swift water rescue training and heavy rescue training. USAR participated in Operation Greystone that allowed the members to exercise all facets of the USAR operations. Chief Mckenna encouraged members of the council to become familiar with

the equipment and capabilities that the USAR team has to assist and support local operations.

**VI. Motiva Terminal After Action Status –Leo Messier- Providence EMA/  
Robert Warren, RIEMA**

Todd Manni, Providence EMA, stated that the after action report is near completion.

**VII. Hurricane Preparedness Update – Robert Warren- RIEMA**

**Outreach plan/ Status and Progress- Worked with Broadcasters association and public announcements cut at WPRO. Mailings are complete.**

Director Warren gave a report on Hurricane Preparedness planning. Director Warren stated that EMA continues to implement the outreach plan and has worked with the Broadcasters Association on public announcements and that the hurricane preparedness mailing is complete.

The Director stated that drills and training are ongoing and RIEMA is continuing to work with DOT and locals on the evacuation plan. Regional Planning is also ongoing. There was a meeting in August at the Naval War College where the New England Emergency Management Directors and Health Directors convened to discuss pandemic planning and regional aide. In addition, the International Emergency Management Assistance Compact will hold a meeting in Vermont on October 21<sup>st</sup> which will also bring together the New England officials to plan for regional situations, Director Warren stated.

The Director stated that in conjunction with Red Cross, a fixed radio system is in place for statewide shelter communications. The Director is also meeting regarding pet evacuation and sheltering.

The Director stated that the Health Department and Special Populations sub-committees continue to work on the registry and are working closely with RIPTA to identify resources and are fine-tuning a MOU with RIPTA.

**VIII. Homeland Security Report**

**Federal Funding/ Grant Update- John Aucott, RIEMA**

Director Warren gave a report on federal funding and is working with DHS partners submitting paperwork. The stakeholders committee has agreed on funding priorities.

**IX. Pandemic Flu Planning Report – Dr. Cirillo, HEALTH**

Dr. Cirillo updated the council on Pandemic Flu Planning. Although Pandemic flu has not been in the forefront of the media in recent months, HEALTH continues to plan and is taking an all-hazards approach to planning. Dr. Cirillo stated that the state is divided into 10 health care regions with a partner acute care hospital, serving as coordinating entity. Dr. Cirillo also reiterated the importance of training exercises like the recent

exercise at the Naval War College to refine response. Dr. Cirillo also stated that HEALTH is working to get the word out on flu preparedness and has created an insert flyer about pandemic flu, avian flu and preparedness in general which will be included in newspapers. Health is also reprinting 500,000 flyers on flu and general preparedness for public distribution at events.

Dr. Cirillo also recommended that everyone get a seasonal flu shot and that there is not a shortage this year.

In conclusion, Dr. Cirillo introduced Dawn Lewis who is the new Preparedness Coordinator for the Hospital Association, taking over for Meredith Arnold. Dr. Cirillo also acknowledged Meredith Arnold's service to the committee and the state.

**X. West Nile/EEE Report – Alan Gettman, Ph.D., RIDEM**

Dr. Fulton of HEALTH updated the council stating that larvaciding has been steady throughout the state over the summer and has kept mosquito population low in urban areas. Dr. Fulton stated that DEM and DOH followed events in CT and MA closely and increased trappings in areas they considered suspect for EEE, and DEM convened a meeting of the Mosquito Disease Advisory group to discuss the risk of EEE in RI. Dr. Fulton stated that trappings have been very active and the density of mosquitoes in August was high, evidence of West Nile was found around the state, and EEE was not found in RI. Dr. Fulton stated that care should still be taken but as the days get cooler and the first frost comes, the mosquito population will be reduced.

**XI. Energy Update – Janice McClanaghan, RI Energy Office**

Janice McClanaghan stated that prices have come down with crude in the \$62 range; natural gas is down to \$5 range from \$11.24 last year at this time.

Gas	Today	Last week	Last year
Self serve	\$2.619	\$273.9	\$3.17
Full	\$2.80	2.92	\$3.319
Heating oil	\$2.53	\$2.57	\$3.01
Diesel	\$3.03	\$3.06	\$2.64

Ms. McClanaghan stated that 29,000 low-income households received applications sent out from community action agencies for heating assistance and that a public hearing is scheduled for Sept 29<sup>th</sup> to go over the LIHEAP plan before federal submission.

Ms. McClanaghan stated that agencies are now providing crisis grants to households for gas and electric service shut-offs. Eligibility is 60% of Rhode Island median income for LIHEAP this year.

The state is expecting \$12 - \$13 M in LIHEAP funding this year and will carry over approximately \$5-\$7M from last years allocation according to Ms. McClanaghan.

## **XII. Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee Report – Robert Warren, RIEMA**

Director Warren stated that the two areas the sub-committee is working on is the volunteer working groups and the special populations committee.

## **XIII. New Business/ Comments and/or Suggestions**

Pam Pogue, of RIEMA addressed the council about the RI Flood Mitigation program. Chairman Fogarty made motion to add RI Flood Mitigation program to the agenda. Motion was approved. Pam Pogue stated that the next meeting of the RI Flood Mitigation is October 30<sup>th</sup>.

Lt. Hayden conducted Amber Alert training on August 30<sup>th</sup> which brought in 30 of 38 agencies. Participant agencies were trained on Amber Portal, were given scenario training on when to activate, and were given additional resources for locating missing children, and a CD to do in-house training sessions.

James Lanni, RIPUC, stated that National Grid recently proposed a 3.9 decrease in gas rates and a 3.9 decrease in electrical rates. Mr. Lanni also stated that the Commission just approved a summer moratorium using a heating index which was proposed to be 90 degrees and higher temperatures and the commission decided to include humidity and make it a heating index.

Joseph Salter, TSA, stated that we are still at orange on the Homeland Security Advisory System. On June 28<sup>th</sup> the TSA, U.S. Attorney's Office, and RIEMA ran a Rail Security Forum and will be having an October 6<sup>th</sup> rail security working group meeting.

Ray Labelle stated that the back-up 911 call center is nearly operational, and the E911 is working with 10 municipalities in implementing reverse 911.

## **XIV. Adjournment**

There being no further business Chairman Fogarty adjourned the meeting at 3:28 pm.