

# **Rhode Island Emergency Management Advisory Council**

## **Meeting Notice**

**THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE HELD:**

**December 2, 2008**

**10:00 AM**

**Room 313, State House**

**Providence, Rhode Island**

## **AGENDA**

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

**Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth H. Roberts**

**RIEMA Director David Smith**

**Alysia Mihalakos    Joseph D. Baker**

**Lt. Darren Delaney    James Lanni**

**Peter Gaynor    Nick Logothets**

**Timothy McLaughlin    Robert Howe**

**Steven Florio    Christine West**

**Kate McCarthy-Barnett            Robert Pasapane**

**Rick Jones    John Chartier**

**Vincent Marzullo    Paul Stasiuk**

**Lori Needham    Ray LaBelle**

**Joan Collins    Dawn Lewis**

**Carol Kent    Bruce Rutter**

**Randall Ricketts    Klaus O'Neal**

**Sergio DeSousarosa    Robert Church**

**Brian Pires    Bill Mullen**

**Chris Laccinole                      Nancy Smith Greer**  
**Geof Milner                      Kenneth Smith**  
**John Riendeau                      Vladimir Ibarra**

**Meeting was called to order at 10:03am.**

**II. Approval of minutes from October 28, 2008**

**Minutes were unanimously approved.**

**III. Winter Preparedness Presentations:**

**A. Comments from the Chairwoman, Lt. Governor Elizabeth H. Roberts**

**Chairwoman Roberts commended Tom Kilday's nine years of dedicated work with RI Emergency Management. He left the agency as of Friday, November 28th 2008 and will return to his roots as a paramedic. Tom will also serve as part-time private consultant in emergency management. Also, Chairwoman Roberts highlighted the pivotal role of the E-911 Uniform Emergency Telephone System and recognized E-911 on their 20 year anniversary. This system provides a vital link to safety and security in our state.**

**B. Comments from Director David Smith RIEMA**

**Director Smith also commended Tom Kilday's many years of service and introduced new RIEMA staff member Rick Jones. Director Smith**

**invited EMAC members to attend the Tabletop exercise to further coordinate the implementation of the Winter Storm Response Plan.**

**Presentations:**

**1. Providence Emergency Management Agency Director Peter Gaynor**  
**Director Gaynor's presentation outlined PEMA's winter storm preparations. These included the creation of an individual review board that produced a vital lessons report. The report included 37 recommendations for a comprehensive approach ensuring citywide solutions to winter storm problems. The recommendations range from monitoring and information gathering, procedures for school cancellation and delayed openings as well as procedures for early release. For instance, the preferred course of action by the PPSD is to either cancel or delay school. Moreover, the recommendations encompassed towing operations, inspection quality, communications, coordination and legislation. Lastly, Director Gaynor discussed the enhanced abilities of PEMA to reach local residents and businesses by using the online emergency notification system Flashbrief. The system provides instant alerts on the computer screen in the event of an emergency. PEMA will be able to send emergency alerts for either natural or man-made disasters or advisory alerts for parking bans, street closures, and Amber Alerts.**

**The vital lessons report is available at:**

**<http://www.providenceri.com/CityCouncil/article.php?id=265>**

**The PowerPoint presentation is available upon request and/or contact**

**Director Gaynor at PEMA (401) 228-8000.**

**2. Fire Prevention During the Heating Season – Chief Timothy McLaughlin, President of the RI Association of Fire Chiefs.**

**Chief McLaughlin's outlined his organization's role in educating the public about fire safety and providing a support system for Rhode Island firefighters and emergency medical technicians in times of crisis. As we head into a very costly heating season, the Chief took the opportunity to remind members about the dangers of using alternative heating sources. These include portable space heaters, stoves, ovens and fireplaces. The presentation focused on simple things one can do to prevent home fires and keep families safe and warm this winter. Some of the measures include: to provide at least 3 feet of space between the space heaters and anything that can burn, turning off heaters when you leave the room or go to sleep, install smoke alarms on every level of your home, inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas. Chief McLaughlin illustrated the dangers of alternative heating sources by showing a 10 second video. For additional information Chief McLaughlin can be reached at 401-725-3590.**

**3. RI Red Cross Shelter Designation & Planning Update-Nick Logothets, RI Red Cross.**

**Red Cross Emergency Services Director Nick Logothets provided an update on the status of emergency shelter designation. He**

**emphasized that the Red Cross is a charitable organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its humanitarian mission. Currently, Rhode Island has 57 approved shelters and close to 900 people trained and ready to apply their skills. Among the presentation highlights, shelter capacity has been increased considerably from 22 in 2006 to the current 57 shelters. Moreover, the agency's goal for 2009 is to increase shelter capacity to 75. Since the Red Cross is not a government agency, it uses publicly owned facilities as shelters such as the North Providence Mancini Center or the Melrose Avenue School in Jamestown. The Red Cross team will spend 3 days in each of Rhode Island's 39 communities reviewing the emergency response capabilities.**

**The PowerPoint presentation is available upon request from the Lt. Governor's office and/or contact Nick Logothets, RI Red Cross at (401) 831-7700**

#### **IV. New Business/ Member Comments and/or Suggestion**

**- A Tabletop exercise has been scheduled for December 5, 2008 to further coordinate the implementation of the Winter Storm Response Plan, with specific emphasis on Emergency Operations Center Management, Communications and Notifications, Media Control / Public Information, and Heavy Tow Operations.**

**· Port Security Upcoming Meetings:**

**December 3, 2008 at 9:00 am Area Committee Meeting at UMASS  
Dartmouth ATMC, Fall River, MA**

**December 11, 2008 at 9:00 am – Port Safety and Security Forum at  
Providence Marriott Downtown. Additional information on the Port  
Security Grant program may be found at the USCG Sector  
Southeastern New England website: <http://homeport.uscg.mil/sene>  
under Announcements section in the bottom right corner.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 11: 20 am.**