



RIEMA NEWS



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Director- Major General Robert T. Bray

Executive Director- J. David Smith

Once In A Blue Moon



*By J. David Smith
Executive Director*

Happy New Year 2010! This is a greeting that brings best wishes for good health and

prosperity for all of our partners and constituencies. For our public safety and first responder partners we always hope that the New Year is one of peace and safety for all of you. At RIEMA we hope the effulgent Blue Moon of New Year's Eve is symbolic of a bright future for all particularly in this year of fuliginous budgets.

You may also notice that we are starting the New Year by calling this the December/January edition, and all subsequent editions will be published at the beginning of the month as we look forward.

The restatement of our agency goals for 2010 may be helpful for everyone to be reminded about the many challenges but opportunities that goals represent. Please consider the following:

1. To continue support and application of NIMS compliance in every community and also with State agencies through public outreach, training, and exercises.

2. To create a comprehensive resource management system for all assets to include resource typing.

3. To create a statewide inter-

agency credentialing system as mandated through Homeland Security Presidential Directive-12 (HSPD-12).

4. Aligning the State Emergency Operations Plan with the National Response Framework.

5. Progress toward EMAP accreditation

6. The coordination and statewide use of RISCO for both voice and high-speed data by implementing the standard operating guidelines and training as determined by the authorized governance structure.

7. All agencies and jurisdictions will provide situational awareness to create a State Common Operating Picture utilizing interoperable standards of technologies.

Goals are intended to be focused upon a balance of attainability and consistency with local, state, and federal objectives. Goals are not unilateral statements but rather efficacious objectives established by those who have the best understanding of needs.

Some challenges to these goals that may lie ahead are a further reduction of available fiscal resources, changes to dogma, pretentious expectations. We are all going to need a refreshing and objective approach to obtain the best results in the most efficient and effective way.

During a recent visit to Vibco,

Inc on Stilson Road in Richmond, Deputy Director Johnson and I were impressed with the efficiency of an organization that is yet another Rhode Island success story. A combination of management and leadership training with Lean Six Sigma along with a contagious attitude of achievement through "strengths" recognition are downright impressive. The pairing of staff with complimentary personality traits and elimination of needless production processes are only some of what has enabled them to be more profitable and also a fun place to work.

The deliberate effort to identify the right staff for their knowledge both factual and experiential but as importantly, people with the right strengths and personality has helped build a workforce at RIEMA that is bright, talented and fun. Please join me in welcoming our two most recent members to the RIEMA family; Ellary Gamache and Marc Pappas. Their profiles are found in this edition so please take a moment to get to know them. Their respective talents will be recognized immediately in the field and will compliment the team that you all are getting to know.

In the last newsletter you learned that we said goodbye to Meghan who worked as our Map Modern-

Continued from previous page

ization technical coordinator. The interviews are progressing well and we are amazed by the professional experience of those who desire to come and be part of the team. A decision should be forthcoming no later than 11 January.

As we state our goals for 2010 I should also tell you that the Obama administration has directed the DHS and FEMA staff to evaluate current and future doctrine for National Preparedness. This is both exciting and worthy of pause. Mr. Tim Manning was recently pictured in RIEMA News sitting with students in North Providence as he personally evaluated the STEP program for the possibility of regional and then national implementation. Mr. Manning serves as the Deputy Administrator for National Preparedness at FEMA and was the former Emergency Management Director and Homeland Security Advisor for the State of New Mexico. He defines preparedness as “the activities undertaken to be better at what American people expect such as recovery, prevention, and protection.” He added, “The first aspect of national preparedness

is teaching resiliency to the American people, especially those without the means to support themselves in a time of disaster.”

RIEMA must set the standard of resiliency as we strive to comply with the evolution of the National Response Framework, possible revision of HSPD doctrine, NIMS compliance, and other emergency management standards that may change by definition and as a result change our course. We stand prepared and resilient to any potentiality and are confident of our resourcefulness. Perhaps the best service to each of you is to define our expectations as reasonable and be an agency that is a trusted member of everyone’s community.

Please take the time to share each story in this edition. It is truly a gift to be able to pass along the enthusiasm and success of each member and our partners. We can only hope that this enthusiasm and success is more contagious than the recrudescing H1N1 that is undoubtedly going to be back in the springtime of 2010. In the meantime, see you next month...

Emergency Management “A regional perspective”

By Deputy Director Ed Johnson

On December 17, 2009, the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency had the pleasure of hosting the quarterly meeting of all our Federal, State and Department of Defense regional partners in emergency management at our own bucolic University of Rhode Island Kingston campus. First and foremost, thank you to the University for being such a wonderful host. The ballroom at Memorial Union was the perfect venue and the coffee was hot all day, which was very much appreciated given the fact that the temperature outside was in the single digits.

The purpose of this forum was the Regional Interagency Steering Committee (RISC) conference for emergency management. The RISC is an integral part of the emergency management process and provides a unique opportunity for members from FEMA Region 1, which constitutes all of New England, to get together face to face and discuss the myriad of issues that impact the preparedness

of the states and region, as true partners in the protection of our citizens and infrastructure in the event of a disaster of any type. From protection of historic properties, to meeting the challenges of a cyber threat, the RISC covers all contingencies.

As with any government entity, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) guides all of the ten regions within the United States with strict laws and policies. The advantage to Rhode Island as well as our sister states in New England in meeting as a regional team, is that we are not only advised of the latest federal guidance and how it can be put to the greatest good for our state, but we can fully understand the level of cooperation and coordination that would exist should the time of need come. So not only do we ask our local neighbors to look after each other in the event of an emergency, but we practice what we preach as we work with our neighboring states to be fully prepared for the next “regional” disaster.



L-R: DEP. DIRECTOR ED JOHNSON AND EVA

USAR K-9 Team Scores Big

On December 5 and 6, 2009 six K-9 teams from the Rhode Island Urban Search and Rescue Team responded to the Lakehurst Naval Air Station in Lakehurst, New Jersey to participate in the Canine Disaster Type I and Type II certification tests. The Type I Canine Evaluation is the highest certification a canine team can achieve under the State Urban Search and Rescue (SUSAR) System. The Type II Canine Evaluation is the second highest certification a canine team can achieve. Both tests are designed to show the teams ability to search and locate multiple live victims who are buried or trapped under rubble from a concrete structural collapse. The Type I certification is valid for three years and the Type II evaluation is valid for two years.

Two of Rhode Island's canine teams took and passed the Type I evaluation which is their first for the RI USAR Team. Two additional canine teams successfully passed their Type II evaluation and one other canine team successfully passed their Type II Human Remains Detection evaluation.

One of Rhode Islands newest USAR canine

teams successfully passed all but one element of their Type II Evaluation and will be re-tested in that element only in the near future. The test was conducted in some of the worst weather possible as the canine teams experienced near freezing temperatures, rain, sleet, wind, and snow for the entire first day of their tests.

The success of these canine teams is the result of years of dedicated and consistent training as well as personal sacrifice and perseverance. Below is the list of certified teams:

Matthew Zarrella and Canine Eva

Type I Live Person

Michael Reis and Canine Ashley

Type I Live Person

Bob St. Martin and Canine Roxy

Type II Live Person

Michael LeClair and Canine Rudi

Type II Live Person

Jennifer Anderson and Canine Asa

Type II Human Remains Detection



H1N1 Partner and School Briefing

Date: December 29, 2009
To: All Rhode Islanders
From: Director of Health, David R. Gifford, MD, MPH
Re: Information on H1N1 and school-based vaccination clinics in Rhode Island

Local Influenza Activity Level: Local¹, H1N1 predominant circulating strain
Rhode Island²: 359 hospitalized cases, 9 deaths
Sentinel Surveillance (% of visits due to influenza-like illness)³: Rhode Island: 1.1%, New England Region: 1.0%, Nation: 2.35%

H1N1 flu vaccine available at Rhode Island pharmacies

H1N1 flu vaccine is available at participating pharmacies in Rhode Island for individuals who are 18 years of age and older. These pharmacies include independent stores and CVS, Walgreens, Rite Aid, and Stop & Shop branches. To find a location with H1N1 vaccine by zip code, see the **Flu Vaccine Locator** on the website of the Rhode Island Department of Health (HEALTH) (www.health.ri.gov). Please note that not all participating pharmacies have registered in this recently-developed system yet. As H1N1 vaccine providers continue to register in this online system and as HEALTH updates it to include public H1N1 flu vaccination clinics, it will direct Rhode Islanders to the nearest locations with H1N1 vaccine.

H1N1 vaccine availability in healthcare providers' offices

Healthcare providers are prioritizing the following populations for office-based vaccinations against H1N1 flu:

- Adults through age 64 with chronic medical conditions.
- Young adults through age 24.
- School-aged children who missed their first doses of vaccine at their schools.
- Caregivers of infants younger than 6 months of age.

As vaccine supply allows, healthcare providers are vaccinating lower-risk patients, such as healthy adults and healthy seniors citizens. Free, public clinics for these populations will open in January.

School-based clinics for second doses of H1N1 vaccine

On January 4, HEALTH will post on its website (www.health.ri.gov) a schedule for school-based clinics for second doses of H1N1 vaccine. Only children who were younger than 10 years of age at the time of their schools' first H1N1 vaccination clinics will be vaccinated at upcoming clinics. **Some schools attended by children who meet this age requirement may not be included on this schedule. The leaders of these schools should contact their State H1N1 School Clinic Coordinators as soon as possible.** Contact information for these coordinators can be found in the document attached to this message.

Beginning on January 11, this second round of clinics will span approximately four weeks. For answers to frequently asked questions about second doses of H1N1 vaccine, see:
<http://www.health.ri.gov/news/H1N1Advisories/FAQsAboutSchoolClinicsForSecondDosesOfH1N1Vaccine.pdf>.

¹ Rhode Island reported Regional activity for the week of December 20 to December 26, 2009. Percentages of influenza-like illness remain above baseline in all five regions of the state. For details see <http://www.health.ri.gov/flu/about/surveillance/>.

² Confirmed and probable hospitalizations and deaths since September 1, 2009

³ Influenza-like illness activity from December 13 to December 19, 2009

Volunteering for school-based H1N1 flu vaccination clinics

RI Responds will hold two H1N1 Competency Training Courses for individuals interested in volunteering for school-based clinics for second doses of H1N1 vaccine. To volunteer, individuals must register in advance and attend one of the two training courses. The courses will take place on January 4, 2010 and January 5, 2010 from 6 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. They will take place at RI Responds' headquarters at 50 Barnett Lane in West Greenwich. Register by visiting www.riresponds.org and clicking on the "Sign Up for Training" link. Those who are registered will receive confirmation emails.

Those who already completed previous RI Responds H1N1 training courses CAN volunteer at school-based clinics without taking new courses, but still must contact RI Responds. For more information about volunteering for school-based clinics for second doses of H1N1 vaccine, write to info@riresponds.org.

H1N1 vaccination of healthcare workers and first responders

Although some Healthcare Service Regions (HSRs) will host additional H1N1 flu vaccination clinics, all HSRs will host H1N1 vaccine point-of-dispensing (POD) clinics for healthcare workers and first responders on January 9, 2010. These clinics will run from noon until 5 p.m. HEALTH is expanding vaccination through these POD clinics to any licensed healthcare professional, such as dentists, podiatrists, and mental health workers, and to their clinical staff. For consent forms for these clinics, see <http://www.health.ri.gov/facilities/hospitals/about/serviceregions/index.php>.

Healthcare Service Region H1N1 Information Lines

Some of the lead hospitals in Rhode Island's HSRs have established H1N1 Information Lines. Healthcare workers and first responders seeking more information about the H1N1 vaccination strategy in their HSRs can find these Information Lines on HEALTH's website at:

<http://www.health.ri.gov/facilities/hospitals/about/serviceregions/index.php>. Please continue to direct general questions about H1N1 and Rhode Island's vaccination strategy to HEALTH's H1N1 Information Line, (401) 222-8022.

Voluntary H1N1 vaccine recall NOT safety related

Last week one of the manufacturers of H1N1 vaccine announced a voluntary recall of specific shipments of nasal spray vaccine. While this includes some of Rhode Island's allocated vaccine, **this recall was not safety related**. The manufacturer issued the recall after observing a slight decrease in the vaccine's strength over time. **The recalled vaccine provided individuals who received it as much immunity as any other dose of the vaccine would have. Individuals who received this vaccine do not need to be re-vaccinated** (however, children who are younger than 10 years of age should still receive second doses of H1N1 vaccine). Healthcare providers are working with HEALTH to return any recalled vaccine.

Holiday Partner and School Briefing and Information Line schedule

HEALTH will release its next Partner and School Briefing on Tuesday, January 5, 2010.

HEALTH's H1N1 Information Line (401-222-8022) will close at noon on December 31, 2009 and will be closed all day on January 1, 2010. The Information Line will otherwise keep its normal hours this holiday season – Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Responders on this line are prepared to answer H1N1-related questions in English and Spanish.

Resources

- HEALTH at <http://www.health.ri.gov>;
- Archived partner briefings and regular news updates: <http://www.health.ri.gov/news/flu/>
- H1N1 Information Line (M-F 8:30am- 4:30pm) 401-222-8022
- H1N1 email address h1n1@health.ri.gov
- <http://www.flu.gov>

RIEMA Welcomes Ellary And Marc



Ellary Gamache, a North Providence Resident, joined RIEMA as a Regional Planner after distinguishing herself as an intern in RIEMA's flood plain mitigation program. Ellary is a 2009 graduate of Rhode Island College with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Geography and Anthropology. Ellary has

been assigned to work with communities in the West Bay and will also work on the Community Rating System (NFIP).



We are pleased to announce the addition of Marc W. Pappas to the RIEMA staff. He will hold the position of Regional Response Coordinator. He will be providing support and coordinating disaster response for four divisions of RIEMA. He is a RI College graduate, a 21 year veteran of

the Pawtucket Police Department and for the last two years was Director of security services for a national private security company.

Ongoing Revision of State EOP

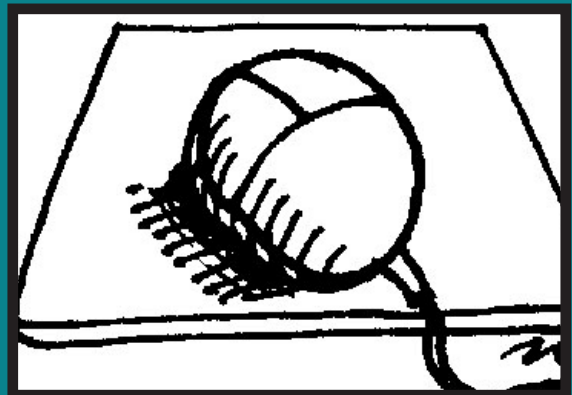
RIEMA continues the process of revising the State Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). As part of this process, we will be scheduling meetings with each Emergency Support Function (ESF) in the coming months to discuss their ESF annex.

On January 14, 2010, an ESF #3-Public Works and Engineering follow-up meeting will be held at the Rhode Island Department of Transportation. ESF #3 will be discussed by representatives from

RIEMA, RI Department of Transportation, RI Public Utilities Commission, RI Public Works Association, RI Department of Corrections, Narragansett Bay Commission, RI Department of Health, RI National Guard, RI Department of Labor and Training, FEMA and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Anyone with an interest in attending this meeting should contact Regional Planning Coordinator Theresa Murray at 462-7336.

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SBA Disaster Loans Available in RI

ATLANTA - The U.S. Small Business Administration announces today that federal economic injury disaster loans are available to small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives and most private non-profit organizations of all sizes located in Kent, Providence and Washington counties in Rhode Island because of abnormally high rainfall, high winds, hail and flooding that began on May 12, 2009.

"These counties are eligible because they are contiguous to one or more primary counties in the State of Connecticut. The Small Business Administration recognizes that disasters do not usually stop at county or state lines. For that reason, counties adjacent to primary counties named in the declaration are included," according to Frank Skaggs, director of SBA's Field Operations Center East.

"When the Secretary of Agriculture issues a disaster declaration to help farmers recover from damages and losses to crops, the Small Business Administration issues a declaration to eligible entities affected by the same disaster," said Skaggs.

Under this declaration, the SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan program is available to eligible farm-related and nonfarm-related entities that suffered financial losses as a direct result of this disaster. Farmers and ranchers are not eligible to apply to SBA.

Victims may qualify for loans up to \$2 million. These loans are available at a 4 percent interest rate with loan terms up to 30 years. The SBA determines eligibility based on the size of the applicant, type of activity and its financial resources. Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA and are based on each applicant's financial condition. Under this disaster declaration, the SBA cannot provide loans to agricultural producers.

Disaster loan information and application forms may be obtained by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 (1-800-877-8339 for the hearing-impaired) Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. EST or by sending an email to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Loan applications can be downloaded from the SBA's Web site at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Completed applications should be mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

Those affected by the disaster may apply for disaster loans from SBA's secure Web site at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>.

Completed loan applications must be returned to SBA no later than July 26, 2010.

For more information about the SBA's Disaster Loan Programs, visit our Web site at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance.

Kass To Speak at Library

You may need to survive on your own after an emergency. This means having your own food, water, and other supplies in sufficient quantity to last for a period of time in your home or if you had to be evacuated outside of your home. Each person's needs and abilities are unique, but every individual can take important steps to prepare for all kinds of emergencies and put plans in place. Preparing makes sense for People with Disabilities and Special Needs. Preparing Your Pets for Emergencies Makes Sense, too.

Get Ready Now! Know what you need!

Wanskuck Community Library, 233 Veazie Street, Providence.
Thursday, January 14, 2010, 6:00 - 7:00 pm A Family Event

Registration Required

Contact Cheryl Hunt at 401-274-4145

Guest Speaker: RIEMA Public Information Officer: Steve Kass





RIEMA and Lowe's Team up to make RI Safer This Winter

In our continuing quest to build relationships with the private sector, we decided to reach out to Lowe's, a company that has been very supportive of our preparedness message in the past. We are pleased to announce that we designated December 12 thru December 18 as "Winter Preparedness Week". A large display table was set up in front of the five largest Lowe's Stores. The displays featured literature handouts pertaining to winter storm prep, videos demonstrating do's and don'ts, H1N1 safety information from The Rhode Island Health Dept,

winter driving tips from DOT, and weather information from NOAA. In addition Lowe's offered special discounts on designated winter related products for the duration of the week. The RIEMA Mobile Command Center was featured at four stores on 12/12, and 12/13. Lowe's management predicted more that more than 50,000 customers would pass by the displays. We wish to say thank you to Jeffrey Studley, store manager at the Route 2 store "where the Warwick Musical Theatre used to be", for his dedication to emergency management efforts.

Riverine Flood Risk Management Tool Workshop

RIEMA will be hosting a Riverine Flood Risk Management Tool Workshop on January 19th, 2010 from 1-3PM. Eleanor Jewitt from FEMA Region 1 and Jeff Burm will be presenting this interactive web-based Riverine Flood Mapping and Reporting Tool which allows users to quickly assess the vulnerability of jurisdictions that are at high risk to riverine flooding. It provides planners and emergency managers with key information to manage risk:

The severity of a flooding event relative to floodplains (50-year, 100-year, 200-year, and 500-

year); Potentially-impacted jurisdictions; and Populations, structures, and infrastructure potentially at risk within those jurisdictions.

If you have not already registered for the workshop, please do so BY JANUARY 7, 2010. Space is limited, so it will be on a first come, first serve basis. Again, this is for riverine flooding, not coastal flooding, so please determine if this is applicable for your community.

For more information, contact Michelle Burnett at 462-7048

RIEMA is now on Twitter: [RhodeIslandEMA](#)

Upcoming RIEMA Courses & Training

January 6-7, 2010
ICS 400
Providence Marriott

January 11-12
ICS 300
Radisson, Warwick, RI

January 20-21
ICS 400
Providence Marriott

Michelle San Souci
Training Coordinator
401-462-7122 • 401-944-1891

NATIONAL THREAT ADVISORY
ELEVATED



NATIONAL AIR TRAVEL ADVISORY
HIGH



High Threat of Terrorist Attacks



Questions?

If you have any questions regarding this newsletter or any articles that have appeared in it, please contact:

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