



RIEMA NEWS



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Director- Major General Robert T. Bray

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FEMA and RIEMA Partner to Conduct Elementary School Preparedness Pilot Program

FEMA Region 1 External Affairs and the Preparedness Division will bring a pilot program to Rhode Island in 2008. The program is designed to provide ready-to-teach preparedness materials to 4th grade students in New England schools. They hope to build a culture of preparedness that will extend to each family, encouraging them to put together emergency kits and family communications plans. These will make families aware of the natural hazards they might be susceptible to.

North Providence School District has volunteered for the pilot program through School Superintendent Donna Ottaviano. Six (6) elementary

schools in North Providence with approximately 243 4th grade students will receive the training through the pilot program next year. The subject material is based on the already-proven American Red Cross 'Masters of Disaster' program as our method of delivery

(<http://www.redcross.org/disaster/masters/>).



FEMA and RIEMA officials are scheduled to meet with North Providence 4th grade teachers during their Professional Development Day in February 2008 with subject materials. A review of the material and any changes will be made before the finalized version is delivered to the 4th grade teachers in April/May.

The first presentation to target 4th grade students in North Providence is scheduled for September 2008 during National Preparedness Month with a statewide distribution to school districts in April 2009.

Contact David Leonard at 462-7188 or David.h.leonard@us.army.mil for additional information.

National Response Framework Released

The *National Response Framework* (NRF) supersedes the *National Response Plan* and more adequately serves as a guide to how the nation conducts incident response in a broader scope.

In this document incidents include actual or potential emergencies or all-hazard events that range from accidents and natural disasters to actual or potential terrorist attacks.

Wider Audience: The *Framework* is intended for executive leadership and emergency management practitioners at all levels of government, as well as private sector, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).

NRF Purpose: To ensure that government executives, private sector,

nongovernmental organization (NGO) leaders, and emergency management practitioners across the nation understand domestic incident response roles, responsibilities and relationships.

Integrated Key Concepts: An effective, unified national response requires layered, mutually supporting capabilities, with states having the primary responsibility for public health and welfare of its citizens. Five elemental principles of operation constitute the national response doctrine.

Other changes:

- Expanded Focus on Partnerships Updated Planning Section
- Improved Annexes & Appendixes

- New Guides for Response Partners
- Clearer Terminology
- Clarified Roles & Responsibilities
- Major Annex Changes to: ESF #6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, Critical Infrastructure Key Resources (CIKR) Support Annex, Logistics Management Support Annex, Volunteer & Donations Management Support Annex, Food & Agriculture Incident Annex, Mass Evacuation Incident Annex, Oil & Hazardous Materials Incident Annex

These documents are available online at www.fema.gov/NRF along with other reference material.

Explaining Rhode Island's Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC)

By Steve Preston
Deputy Director of Woonsocket
Emergency Management

The mission of the Local Emergency Planning Committees is to develop a comprehensive hazardous materials emergency response plan for their communities. To be effective, planning must be an ongoing activity.

A Local Emergency Planning Committee or LEPC is an organization established to meet the requirements of the federal emergency planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), also known as the Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act (SARA Title III), for emergency response planning. EPCRA contains four major provisions:

- Planning for chemical emergencies
- Emergency notification of chemical accidents and releases
- Reporting of hazardous chemical inventories (Tier II Reports)
- Toxic chemical release reporting

What Does a LEPC do?

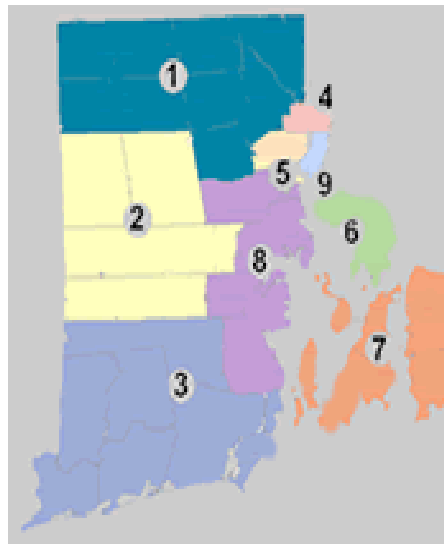
Under EPCRA, an LEPC is the focal point for chemical emergency response planning and implementation in a community. The LEPC's key responsibilities are:

- Assisting local governments in developing hazardous materials emergency response plans
- Evaluating the community's need for resources to respond to hazardous materials emergencies
- Processing requests from the public for information on hazardous chemicals in the community hazard assessment and vulnerability studies as well as exercising

What Are the Activities of the LEPC's?

The LEPC's assists with the preparation and implementation of the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). The LEPC's receives the annual Tier

II Reports (chemical inventory). The information is used to perform hazard assessments for the community. LEPC's must make information from these reports available, to the public, upon request. The LEPC's may also request additional hazardous chemical information from facilities for



Map of the 9 LEPCs
in Rhode Island

emergency planning purposes. The LEPC's participates in hazardous material exercises and drills to improve the response community's preparedness. The LEPC's serves as the link between citizens, industry, and government in emergency planning and preparedness for the communities. Members participate in exer-

cises, training, seminars and other special projects with others in the communities to build team efforts.

Who Should Participate In The LEPC?

The LEPC's are comprised of dedicated volunteers, from city, state government representatives, local industry and organizations, medical, school districts, universities, emergency response personnel and concerned citizens.

What Does The LEPC Promote?

Rhode Island LEPC's promotes emergency planning, preparedness, and public awareness, to protect the communities from the potential impact of natural or technological hazards of hazardous chemicals and substances and related disasters.

How Can You Help The LEPC?

Participate as an active member by attending the monthly meetings. Provide your expertise or resources to the membership. Participate on the LEPC subcommittees.

Donate staff time to perform special projects, assist in planning exercises and perform data entry. Whether you choose to support your LEPC through contributions, donations, or participation you will be doing your part to contribute to the health and safety of Rhode Island communities.

NIMS Training Available Bi-Monthly

In an ongoing effort to provide updated NIMS required training and ICS training, RIEMA will be conducting Technical Assistance training for the On-line courses (IS-100 and IS-700). Also an overview brief will be provided for ICS 100. The training will be scheduled the 1st and 3rd

Thursday of the month from 9 a.m. through 12 p.m. and will be located in the State EOC at 645 New London Ave. Cranston, R.I. 02920. Seats will be limited due to computer resources.

Please contact Ken Baker to reserve your seat at:
Kenneth.l.baker1@us.army.mil

Pawtucket School Shooter Exercise a Success

By Robert Howe
Pawtucket Emergency Management
Director

On Sunday November 18, 2007 Pawtucket Emergency Management, Pawtucket Police, Pawtucket Fire/EMS, East Providence Police, New England Ambulance and Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island participated in a "Columbine Style School Shooter exercise named "Operation Sunday School".

Members of RI Emergency Management Agency were on hand to evaluate the exercise as it took place. Brittan Bates of RIEMA who was on hand assisted Pawtucket's EMA Director Robert Howe with guidelines of past school shooter exercises, which made the exercise.

The scenario played out with two young students opening fire inside Jenks Junior High School at detention period. The principal of the school was shot and killed at the onset of the exercise. A police officer in

the school immediately called for help as well as a teacher who called police by cell phone stating that shots were fired.

The gunman entered the school and activated the fire alarm which drew a response from the Pawtucket Fire Department. Engine 3 arrived on scene and was met with gunfire. The firefighters retreated to safety behind the truck and ordered a staging area to be set up at the Agnes Little Elementary School located 500 feet away from Jenks Junior High. This area was out of the line of fire for the gunman.

Pawtucket Police officers arrived on scene, followed their protocols for entering the school, and immediately shot one of the assailants and forced the second assailant to take refuge in a classroom. The exercise continued with members of the Pawtucket Police and East Providence Police Special Response Teams entering the building and searching for more assailants. Pawtucket Police Hostage

negotiators were called in to remedy the situation with the lone gunman. Within 2 hours they were successful. Under hostile conditions 7 victims were treated and transported to Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island by Pawtucket EMS and New England Ambulance. Pawtucket Police maintained cover for EMS personnel to protect them from the gunman.

With the increase in school violence, Pawtucket Emergency Management Director wanted to test the skills of the Pawtucket Police and Fire for this type of situation. EMA Director Robert Howe states "They all did an outstanding job... The men and women of the Pawtucket Police and Fire were up to the task and showed that they can handle a situation of this magnitude. Although this was an exercise you could see the intensity in the police officers eyes as they apprehended the assailants." School violence is around us daily. It's unfortunate but a reality.

RIEMA Focuses on Dam Emergency Planning

The Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency has been tasked with insuring that all 219 dams throughout the state have an Emergency Action Plan (EAP). According to General Law 49-19-9 which requires an EAP to "be prepared for each significant or high hazard dam by the city or town wherein the dam lies by July 1, 2008." During a dam failure incident the EAP will allow for better coordination between the dam owner and first responders. Coordination and communication is an essential piece in responding to dam failure due to the time it takes to evacuate homes and businesses down stream of the dam's inundation area. The EAP also can be used as a training tool for preparedness allowing the dam owners and first responders to exercise the plan prior to activating it for a real emergency.

RIEMA held a Dam EAP Seminar in January for city and town officials

who are tasked with completing EAP's in their various municipalities. The seminar comprised of various officials ranging from Emergency Management, Police, Fire, Engineers, and Public Works Personnel who will be tasked with developing the EAP and responding to an actual dam emergency.

The threat of dam failure is real. Since 2000, more than 45 dam failures have been documented throughout the US resulting in loss of life and millions in damages. Heavy rains in October 2005 caused approximately 2000 people to be evacuated due to possible breach of the Whittenton Pond dam in Taunton, MA. In March 2007 the Kaloko Reservoir dam in Hawaii breached causing the deaths of 7 people and over 15 million dollars in damages.

Like all man made built structures, dams can deteriorate and fail. Causes of dam failure can vary to prolonged

periods of rainfall and flooding. This is the most common cause of failure or inadequate spillway capacity resulting in excess overtopping of the embankment. Additionally, dams are considered by the Department of Homeland Security as critical infrastructure and a key resource that need to be protected from terrorist attacks.

The importance of emergency preparedness for dams is imperative to the overall safety to any community that lies within the inundation area of a dam. An Emergency Action Plan ensures that owners and first responders have clear communications and a coordination plan to effectively prepare, respond or mitigate a possible dam failure incident.

For any questions regarding Emergency Action Planning or Preparedness please contact Robert Pesapane at RIEMA on 401-462-7187 or Robert.pesapane@us.army.mil.

Emergency Uses for Your Camera Phone

The following article has been adapted from an article by Paul Purcell, a security analyst and preparedness consultant with over twenty years risk management and preparedness experience. He's also the author of "Disaster Prep 101" at www.disasterprep101.com. The direct link to the full article is <http://www.disasterprep101.com/documents/50PhoneCam.pdf>

In emergency situations, first responders and civilians alike often do not consider all the tools available to them in every day life. One such tool that can prove useful in an emergency situation is your camera phone.

This device can prove to be a powerful documentation, intelligence gathering and/or situational awareness tool. The following is a short list of possible uses for your camera phone in an emergency situation:

1. *First Responder Intel*- The more first responders know about the true

nature of a collapsed house, an auto accident, a fire in progress, or any other emergency, the more rapid and appropriate a reaction they can make.

2. *Quick Text Messaging*- Time is critical in an emergency and so are communications. You might not have enough time to punch in a text message, and the lines might not be open long enough for a conversation. If that's the case, write a note on paper, take a picture, and send that.

3. *"Here's the Landmark I'm Near"*- In an emergency, gathering with the family at a "rendezvous point" is one of the most critical steps you'll take. If you don't have a fixed meeting place, you can send pictures of where and what you're near so the others can find you. This also works well if you're lost and/or injured in the wilderness and you need to relay pictures of landmarks so Search and Rescue teams can find you.

4. *Bridge the Language Barrier*-

Pictures make bridging language barriers easier whether you're trying to understand their needs or relay yours to them.

These are just four quick ideas for using your camera phone in a disaster. RIEMA encourages you to have a conversation with family members and co-workers on other ideas.

RIEMA and RI DMV Work on REAL ID Grant Proposal

Since the beginning of the year, RIEMA has been partnering with the RI Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to write a grant proposal for the REAL ID implementation. Title II of the REAL ID Act of 2005 "establishes certain minimum standards for state-issued drivers licenses and ID cards, and the act prohibits federal agencies from accepting state-issued driver's licenses or ID cards for official purposes" (FY 2008 REAL ID Demonstration Grant Program guidance 2). There are several requirements that the state's must follow to implement this act. One requirement is that only certain information can be accepted by the DMV before a REAL ID driver's license or ID can be issued. The second requirement is that certain data must be on the ID. Lastly, there must be electronic access to motor vehicle databases.

RI DMV has already begun working to implement this program. RIEMA and RI DMV have composed a grant application in an effort to gain more funding for this initiative. The state motor vehicle/driver's license issuing authority is the only eligible applicant. The grant application is due to the Department of Homeland Security by March 7, 2008 and awards will be announced within ninety days.

RIEMA Staff Members Attend Hurricane Training Course

RIEMA Planners Larry Macedo and Joe Cournoyer participated in a FEMA sponsored Hurricane Preparedness Training Course at the National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami, FLA from January 7-11. Instructors ranged from Forecasters from the NHC and the National Weather Service (NWS) to Coordinators from the FEMA Hurricane Liaison Team (HLT).

Macedo (9th from left) and Cournoyer (8th from left) drilled with other Northeast States in analyzing

forecast models for storm intensity, speed and surge. The week-long training culminated in an exercise to test each State's decision-making capability as a fictitious storm tracked along the Eastern coast of the US.



Training Attendees Pose for a Picture

"We had the opportunity to work side by side with our nation's foremost authorities on hurricanes," said Cournoyer. "We also discussed many aspects of our plans with our counterparts

throughout New England and the Northeast. It was a great learning experience."

The Mission of RIEMA and the State EOC

To better understand the roles between federal, state and local emergency management, Major General Robert T. Bray clarifies RIEMA's mission and the State EOC's function.

RIEMA Mission

The Rhode Island Emergency Management (RIEMA) is the coordinating agency for multi-jurisdiction and multi-agency response in the State of Rhode Island for all emergencies including natural and technological hazards such as fires, floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, winter storms, chemical releases, weapons of mass destruction and terrorism incidents. Agency services include:

- Develop, review and enhance the State's disaster preparedness and recovery plans for "All Hazards"
- Distribute and coordinate those plans on a State-wide basis
- Operate, maintain and enhance the State's Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
- Operate, maintain and enhance the State's Mobile Command Center.
- Manage and coordinate state-wide response to and recovery from natural, technological, and terrorism disasters.
- Is the State's Liaison to the Department of Homeland Security.
- Coordinate the State's disaster response/recovery needs with Federal agencies.
- Serve as a coordination point for federal disaster relief programs
- Plan, conduct and critique exercises that test and improve preparedness
- Develop, distribute and provide instruction on guidelines for citizen, business and industrial disaster planning.

The Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency assists and supports the State in reducing loss of life and property from all hazards, providing for the safety and security of the State of Rhode Island.

We are the official coordinating agency of the State of Rhode Island

for the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency in times of state, national, multi-jurisdiction and multi-agency emergencies/disasters. The State's disaster preparedness plans are constantly being reviewed, assessed, updated and tested.

RIEMA's mission is to coordinate the government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether national or man-made, including acts of terror in the state.

Although the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency provides for disaster response and recovery for the entire State, local governments, including individual cities and municipalities, and fire/law enforcement districts must develop their own Emergency Disaster Plans in concert with the State and Federal Response Plans.

Emergency planning, preparation, response, operation, and recovery in the State of Rhode Island is a collaborative multi-jurisdiction and multi-agency effort, including transportation, emergency medical services, law enforcement, fire services, engineers, the private sector, the National Guard, and Coast Guard, to name a few.

The State Emergency Operations Center (S-EOC)

The S-EOC is a multi-agency coordination center established locally. It provides a central location for coordination of Federal, State, local, tribal, nongovernmental, and private-sector organizations with primary responsibility for threat response and incident support. The S-EOC enables the effective and efficient coordination of State incident-related prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery actions. The S-EOC utilizes the scalable organizational structure of the NIMS ICS in the context of both pre-incident and post-incident management activities. The S-EOC organization adapts to the magnitude and

complexity of the situation at hand, and incorporates the NIMS principles regarding span of control and organizational structure: management, operations, planning, logistics, and finance/administration. Although the S-EOC uses an ICS structure, the S-EOC does not manage on-scene operations. Instead, the S-EOC focuses on providing support to on-scene efforts and conducting broader support operations that may extend beyond the incident site.

As described in the NIMS, the S-EOC may also incorporate a sixth element focused on intelligence and information. This element may be included as a position in the Coordination Staff, a unit within the Planning Section, a branch within the Operations Section, or as a separate General Staff Section. The placement of the intelligence function is determined by the S-EOC Coordination Group based on the role intelligence plays in the incident and/or the volume of classified or highly sensitive information. Personnel from the Rhode Island National Guard and Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency provide staffing for the S-EOC, generally through their respective ESFs. The S-EOC fully accommodates all entities (or their designated representatives) essential to incident management, information-sharing, and the delivery of disaster assistance and other support. When activated to support a State Special Security Event (SSSE) or other security coordination function, the State Police, local law enforcement, and DHS/U.S. Secret Service (USSS) are collocated at the S-EOC when possible. In the event that collocation is not practical, agencies are connected virtually to the S-EOC and assign liaisons to the S-EOC to facilitate the coordination of State incident management and assistance efforts. State, local, tribal, private-sector, and nongovernmental organizations are encouraged to assign liaisons to the S-EOC to facilitate interaction, communication, and coordination.

HEALTH Responds Using ICS

By *Alysia Mihalakos, MPH*
Emergency Response Planner
Rhode Island Department of Health

On January 3, 2008, the Rhode Island Department of Health (HEALTH) was notified of a case of active tuberculosis (TB) in a student at Central Falls High School. After consulting with the CDC, HEALTH determined the need to test students and staff at the school to ensure that there were no additional people with active TB in the school.

HEALTH activated ICS on January 4, 2008 as a means of ensuring an efficient response to the testing, epidemiological analysis, and public information aspects of this exposure. A Policy Group was developed to guide the process, which included representatives from HEALTH, the Department of Education, the RISE Specialty TB Clinic, the Superintendent of the Central Falls School District, and the principal of Central Falls High School. Liaisons from the Governor's Office, RIEMA, and the mayor of Central Falls were invited to participate in daily Command and General Staff meetings.

From January 8-11, 2008, HEALTH, in cooperation with nurses from the Central Falls School District and many wonderful volunteers from the Rhode Island Medical Reserve Corps, conducted TB skin tests for students and staff who were identified as having had close contact with the student and all members of the junior and senior classes.

No new cases of active TB were identified through the testing process and a smaller than expected number of staff and students had positive skin test results (approximately 5%). These students and staff may or may not have latent TB (a non-contagious form of TB) from some past exposure. All of the individuals were evaluated at the RISE TB Specialty Clinic to determine if the skin test results were false positives or if the individuals had latent TB. There was no difference in the percentage of students

with positive skin test results who were close contacts (classmates or friends of the student) compared to those who are not as close contacts (other 11th or 12th graders).

Since the TB skin test can be falsely negative (show no reaction) in people who may have been infected recently (in the past several weeks), and therefore students and staff who tested negative in this phase will be re-tested in 11 weeks. Anyone who has a positive skin test result in the second phase of testing will be referred for appropriate follow-up and treatment.

While ICS has been partially demobilized, portions of the Planning and Operations Sections remain active and meet weekly. The Policy Group will begin to meet again during the week of March 3, 2008 and the second round of testing is scheduled to begin the week of March 24, 2008.



Upcoming RIEMA Courses & Training

February 12-13
ICS 400**

March 3-4
ICS 300**

March 12-14
Instructor Development Workshop
~By Invitation Only~

March 27-28
ICS 400

April 10-11
ICS 400

May 6-7
ICS 300

**Signifies that the class is full

Questions?

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

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