



RIEMA NEWS



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Director- Major General Robert T. Bray

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Executive Director- Robert J. Warren

Welcome to RIEMA's New Monthly Newsletter

By Robert J. Warren, Executive Director

I would like to formally welcome everyone to our new monthly newsletter, RIEMA News. RIEMA News will work to keep its readers informed of the on-going events within our Agency, as well as, highlight important issues within emergency management.

This project was initi-

ated through a collaboration between Brittan Bates and Jeff Stevens. While we do not currently have a full-time Public Information Officer (PIO), we do have Brittan Bates. Brittan currently runs our Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) and serves as our PIO on

an as needed basis.

Jeff Stevens is one of our new Regional Planners who served as the catalyst to bring this much discussed project to life. After meeting with local emergency management directors, he and the other Regional Planners soon realized that local communities wanted more information about the current hap-

penings at RIEMA. Therefore, RIEMA News has been created.

RIEMA News will be distributed by e-mail and fax on the first Wednesday of each month. Should you have any questions or would like to submit articles for inclusion please contact Brittan or Jeff. Thank you for your support of this new initiative.

DHS Announces FY2007 Grant Awards for Rhode Island

Through diligent effort from local and state partners, we have received our grant awards for FY2007 from the Department of Homeland Security. All of these grants are project based and were created with stakeholder groups for both the state based grants as well as a policy group from the Providence Metro Area (UASI). These two bodies met regularly during the grant application process and used their knowledge and subject-matter expertise to submit projects that would benefit the State as well as the Metro Area. These voting bodies will reconvene to decide which projects will be funded with the dollars that were received. The grant programs that are voted on in these groups are the State Homeland Security Grant Program, Law Enforcement Terrorism Protection Program, Citizen Corps Program, Metropolitan Medical Response, Buffer Zone Protection Program, Urban Area Security Initiative, Transit Security Grant Program, Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant, UASI Nonprofit Grant,

FY2007 Grant Funding	
State Homeland Security Grant Program	\$3,820,000
Law Enforcement Terrorism Protection Program	\$2,730,000
Citizen Corps Program	\$140,368
Metropolitan Medical Response	\$258,145
Buffer Zone Protection Program	\$692,500
Urban Area Security Initiative	\$5,170,000
Transit Security Grant Program	\$721,367
Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant	\$7,365,694
UASI Nonprofit Grant	TBA
Total Funding	\$20,898,074

Citizen Corps Program, and the Urban Area Security Initiative.

We are in the process of writing the application for the Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant. This funding is pre-designated, however the applica-

tion is written after DHS tells each State and Urban Area how much they are receiving. It is our hope that this grant will aid the State of Rhode Island in achieving interoperability.

MEDS PODS Exercises On-Going This Summer

This summer, each municipality in Rhode Island, in conjunction with the Rhode Island Department of Health and Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency is working to ensure that its residents will be protected at the time of a public health emergency. Each municipality will conduct an exercise (by August 20th) simulating a response to a public health emergency by activating a Point of Dispensing (POD), which would be used to distribute medications or provide vaccine to the population.

The purpose of these exercises is

to allow responsible parties from each municipality to test their ability to bring together resources, activate a POD site, and distribute medications to the population as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Local response agencies and volunteer organizations, integral to the preparation and execution of a POD, are involved in the planning of the exercise. During the exercise, they will have the opportunity to perform their roles as they would during an actual emergency.

Each municipality receives

\$2000 when their plan is approved by DOH and an additional \$5000 once they have exercised the plan with DOH and RIEMA. Funding for municipalities to develop and revise their POD plans and conduct these exercises is provided by the RI Department of Health utilizing federal funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) under the Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) program. RIEMA facilitates the exercises through its Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation (HSEEP) program model.



Panel Discussion during the Conference

Preparing the Islands of the Bahamas

RIEMA and the RI National Guard continue their on-going relationship with The Islands of The Bahamas (National Emergency Management Agency, NEMA), to provide guidance in the development of an Emergency Management system to benefit their population. The latest such effort saw four members of the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency and three member of

the RI National Guard travel to the Bahamas to provide training and exchange Ideas. The main areas of focus were WebEOC Demonstration, Logistics PODs training, Finance, ICS overview, Response and Recovery, Disaster Management with the Media, Shelter Operations, and Damage Assessment. A Bahamian Delegation will travel to Rhode Island in May 2008 to continue the relationship.

Ready to Go?

How many of you Emergency Responders have a Emergency Plan, Communications Plan and emergency kit at home? Go bag in your car?

First Responders, Emergency Management Personnel, and other critical employees - are our first line of defense in handling and recovering from a disaster! If you are worrying about assisting your family (because you didn't have all these things ready before a disaster) you will be less likely to perform your duties as needed during a disaster. Practice what you preach and get your family set today!

Visit www.ready.gov for more information.



Community Leaders Organize RI Citizen Corps Council

Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency is proud to announce the re-constitution of the Rhode Island Citizen Corps Council, who held their first meeting on Wednesday, July 25, 2007. The Citizen Corps Council's mission is to provide guidance, leadership and networking to regional and local Citizen Corps Programs through collaboration, planning and sharing resources so communities will be prepared and able to assist themselves and others.

The Citizen Corps Council will serve as the "hub" for emergency volunteer and auxiliary programs in Rhode Island bringing together community leaders from several sectors. Their initial goal is to develop the strategies to coordinate our existing volunteer programs providing guidance, resources, standards, and support as well as outreach to the public to educate and inform

about disaster preparedness.

The Citizen Corps Council is represented by leaders from different regions, functions and organizations in the state. Each region of the state has a member representing the specific needs of their region. The Council has an equal number of members representing specific functions involved in emergency volunteer support (i.e. sheltering, ham

radio, pet care, medical teams, etc.). The Council also includes "At-Large" representatives serving from special populations, non-profits, etc. In re-constituting the council, representing all the diverse groups in the state were considered to best represent our communities equally. The Citizen Corps Council welcomes participation and input from those who wish to serve as a volunteer, on a committee or working group.



A Quiet Tall Ships Festival

The 2007 Tall Ships Event was held in Newport, Rhode Island from June 28 through July 1, 2007. Approximately twenty vessels of various classes participated in the four day event. RIEMA Executive Director Robert J. Warren and

RIEMA was the lead agency for this event that involved the use of the Incident Command System. Agencies participating in this event were comprised of Federal, State and Local personnel. Months of dedicated and hard work went into



personnel wishes to extend our appreciation to the many agencies that participated in making this event a safe and secure environment for the general public to enjoy.

the planning of this event with the Tall Ships Committee of Newport and a close working relationship allowed for this event to come to fruition without incident.

HSEEP Assists with Tall Ships Festival Preparations

Each states' Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) gets a few 'freebies' from Department of Homeland Security (DHS) each year. This year Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) offered up it's 'freebie' for direct support of a discussion based exercise to have the Department of Home-

land Security come in a run a Table Top Exercise (TTX) simulating several land and water based scenarios revolving around a Tall Ships event in Newport, RI. It was a great opportunity for the local, state and federal partners to work through the Incident Command System (ICS) together. The TTX was run a few weeks prior to



Unloading Water for Tall Ships

the real Tall Ships event, which went off without a hitch thanks to the many hours of planning with all local, state and federal partners involved.

RIEMA Hires Three New Regional Planners

The agency has hired the long promised planners to assist the local EMA directors with plan development. The planners have been engaged with all of the local communities over the past several weeks compiling a baseline assessment of exactly where we are at in the "statewide" planning process. Emphasis has been placed on Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) review and converting the plans to an Emergency Support Function (ESF) format to mirror the State EOP as closely as possible. The EOP is the backbone of the Emergency Management program at both the state and local level and requires due diligence in the planning process to create a realistic "living document" capable of adapt-

ing to any type of emergency or incident affecting your community.

Upon completion of the EOPs the goal is to progress further into the planning process in the development of Continuity of Operations/Government (COOP/COG) plans, Recovery Plans to include both short and long term recovery, Debris Management Plans, Hurricane Plans, etc. The focus and emphasis of the local regional planners will be to adapt to the locals needs.

The planners areas of responsibilities are as follows:

Norm Menard (462-0921)- Central Falls, Cumberland, East Providence, Foster, Johnston, Lincoln, North Providence, North Smithfield, Pawtucket, Scituate, Smithfield, and Woonsocket

Robert Pesapane (462-8187)- Barrington, Bristol, Coventry, East Greenwich, Jamestown, Little Compton, Middletown, Newport, Portsmouth, Tiverton, Warren and West Greenwich.

Jeff Stevens (462-0922)- Burrillville, Charlestown, Exeter, Gloucester, Hopkinton, Narragansett, New Shoreham, North Kingstown, Richmond, South Kingstown, West Warwick, and Westerly.

All three planners will be sharing duties in Cranston, Providence, and Warwick.

The planning initiative is under the supervision of Paul Wentworth (462-7182) and Paul Crawford (462-7119). Should you have any questions, please contact your municipality's planner.

Unique Training Experience Comes to Woonsocket

Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency, the city of Woonsocket, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency have been working together to create a Point Of Distribution System (PODS) training event on August 8 & 9, 2007. This training event is groundbreaking. The collaboration between local, state and federal agencies to do a PODS training of this magnitude has never occurred in the country and is drawing attention from Washington officials.

Leaders from all of the New England state's Emergency Management Agencies have been invited to participate, as well as select disciplines from all of Rhode Island and some nearby Massachusetts's municipalities.

The first day will cover both PODS and Community Hurricane

Preparedness. This will be held in the auditorium and thus has limited seating. Therefore, we are limiting the invitation to Municipal CEOs, Local EMA Directors, Public Works Directors, CERT Team Representatives and Fire and Police Chiefs. We have chosen this audience because we believe it best represents those who are responsible for a PODS in your community.

The second day will be hands on training, outside, actually moving food and water commodities as described the day before. Please dress appropriately, as we want all to participate. There is not a limit on the invitation to attend this day. Feel free to invite others if you think they will benefit from seeing a PODS.

Contact Brittan Bates for questions or to register.



RIEMA Upcoming Courses & Training

August 7-8, 2007
ICS 300**

August 8-9, 2007
PODs Training

August 23-24, 2007
Basic Search & Rescue**

Sept 7-8, 2007
ICS 400**

Sept 11-13, 2007
Basic Public Information Officer Course

Sept 17, 2007
Clandestine Laboratory Awareness Training**

Sept 21, 2007
Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings/Prevention & Response to Suicide Bombings**

Nov. 3-4, 2007
Land Navigation Course

**Signifies that the class is full

Recent Study Shows Rhode Islanders Unprepared

Advantage Marketing Information recently conducted telephone survey of 400 households investigating hurricane preparedness. The study was designed to provide a snapshot of current levels of preparedness among Rhode Island residents.

The results of the study found that Rhode Islanders are generally not ready for a hurricane. "Many have not prepared plans while over half have not spoken with their families about preparations. Only

a little over 1/3 recalled a mailing on hurricane preparedness and only about half have that information handy today."

While these results should not be considered groundbreaking, it should reinforce the need for due diligence on the part of both local and state agencies to inform Rhode Island residents on the necessary steps to prepare for a hurricane. Encouraging residents to create a go-kit, identify their evacuation routes, or teaching them about the

differences between a hurricane watch and warning are all steps that we can all take to better prepare our State.

We are fast approaching the peak of hurricane season (Mid-August to late October). Every agency, state and local, has a responsibility to increase the preparedness of our citizens.

For more information on hurricane preparedness please visit: <http://www.ready.gov/> or contact Jim Baker at RIEMA (462-7114).

Araujo Retires

After thirteen years as Pawtucket's Emergency Management Director, Al Araujo retired on June 27, 2007. Araujo was one of the most well respected EMA Directors within the State and a definite asset to the City he served.

During his tenure, he was faced

with two major emergencies: the 2003 Greenhalgh Mill Fire and a mercury spill in 2004. While he assisted in a first-class response, a great emphasis should also be placed on all of the disasters he prevented through various hazard mitigation and preparedness programs.

We would like to wish Al all the best in his retirement.

Portsmouth's Lowrimore Honored

Portsmouth's Emergency Management Director James "Jim" Lowrimore was recently selected as Northeast States Emergency Consortium 2007 Rhode Island Emergency Manager of the Year.

Lowrimore was one of three directors in the State to ensure that his community

was "Storm Ready." While "Storm Ready" does not guarantee Ports-

mouth is storm proof, it does mean that Jim has prepared the town to meet national standards for severe weather emergencies.

Furthermore, Jim has worked diligently to improve Portsmouth's communications system to ensure its viability should an emergency occur.

We would like to thank Jim for his service to his community and congratulate him on his award.



Lowrimore receives his award from RIEMA Deputy Director Diana Arcand

Questions?

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

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