

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Visit the MEMA booth at the Maryland Association of Counties Conference in Ocean City, August 12-15.
- Hurricane season is upon us...don't forget to test your GETS card regularly!

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The Coordinator

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Annual Emergency Management Conference

The annual Maryland Emergency Management Conference got off to a rather soggy start this year. Due to the rain, the annual Golf Outing had to be canceled, but that did not dampen everyone's spirits. There were a total of 120 attendees, 35 Vendors, 31 fantastic speakers and vendor sponsored breaks & events that made the conference as much fun as it was educational.

The Silent Auction raised \$1,210.00 for the Maryland Emergency Management Association's Scholarship program which awarded all five (5) \$1,000.00 scholarships this year. They were awarded to the following High School Seniors: Region I-Washington County- Linsay K. Wilkinson a 2009 graduate of Boonsboro High School.



Linsay plans to attend Hagerstown Community College in Hagerstown, MD and major in Homeland Security/ Emergency Services; Region II- Frederick County- Christopher A. Steinheimer a 2009 graduate of Urbana High School. Christopher plans to attend McDaniel College in Westminster, MD and major in Political Science; Region III- Harford County-Timothy Dowding a 2009 graduate of Bel Air High School. Timothy plans to attend Anna Maria College in Paxton, MA and major in Fire Science; Region IV- Kent County- Kyle M. Mench is a 2009 graduate of Kent County High School. Kyle plans to attend the University of Delaware in Newark, DE and major in Civil Engineering; the fifth scholarship went to

Region I- Garrett County- Nicholas Crabtree a 2009 graduate of Southern Garrett High School. Nicholas plans to attend Garrett College in McHenry, MD and major in Emergency Management & Homeland Security. Congratulations to all the scholarship recipients.

To all who were involved from Vendor to participant, thank you for making this year a huge success and we can't wait to see you next year. To the Conference Committee: people may truly never know just how much hard work, dedication and time it takes to put this conference together; however every year each one of you digs in, sweats and produces a product that surpasses the year before. Thank you so much for that.

Submitted by Association Vice President
Kristin McMenamin



Washington County Emergency Management



Welcome to Washington County! Washington Co. is 467 square miles located in Cumberland Valley with a population of approximately 145,384. We border with two counties in Maryland – Alleghany and Frederick, two counties in Pennsylvania – Franklin and Fulton, one county in Virginia – Loudoun, and three counties in West Virginia – Berkeley, Jefferson and Morgan. In addition, our county has over 100 miles of shoreline along the Potomac River. As Director of Emergency Services, I would like to introduce you to the Department of Emergency Services and current projects under way that will allow us to meet our future challenges.

Our long history within our Department of Emergency Management begins with our current Emergency Management Coordinator Verna Brown. Verna, with her tenure in the county and within the emergency management community, continues to oversee the day-to-day operations within emergency management. Beyond maintaining our current Emergency Operations Plan and other documents required by the agency, we continue to build out our Emergency Support Functions and work collaboratively with the many departments/agencies within the county and the state. The department's work through the Local Emergency Planning Committee, Citizen Corp and CERT continue to maintain our citizen's level of awareness, preparation and response. Within the next few months, our Maryland Virtual Emergency Response System will be fully functional to provide incident support to all of our emergency response partners. Also working with our Department of Emergency Communications (DEC), we will be able to provide our citizens with an emergency notification and response system. The department's success comes from the assistance of our Emergency Planner Bradley Stetmyer and Emergency Management Intern Ericka Jeter.

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SEOC Activated for H1N1 Flu

In response to the H1N1 Influenza impacting Maryland, MEMA sent liaisons to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) Command Center on April 30th. Assistance was rendered in establishing an Incident Command System structure and MEMA Communications staff assisted with the creation of a DHMH Flu Hotline for the public. As the situation in Maryland escalated, DHMH held daily press conferences updating guidelines, school status, and confirmed cases in the State.

On May 1st, MEMA elevated the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) to a modified Level 2,

scheduling a Duty Officer, Planner and Administrative Officer to mirror the DHMH Command Center activation 8:30am-5pm. Additional representatives from Department of General Services, MD Department of Transportation, MD State Police, Department of Human Resources, and DHMH staffed the SEOC.

MEMA and the SEOC representatives participated in daily conference calls with DHMH and the Governors Office, and daily Situation Reports and Incident Action Plans were created for internal distribution and sharing with DHMH. MEMA Planners also collaborated with the DHMH Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Coordi-

nator in the creation of a scalable SNS Distribution Plan to the local jurisdictions.

On May 5th, MEMA returned to level one SEOC activation with the MD Joint Operations Center monitoring the events surrounding H1N1 throughout the state, country, and world.

With flu season approaching in the fall, H1N1 will surely make a come back along with the seasonal flu. It is important to establish Continuity of Operations Plans for daily operations and provide the appropriate training on those plans to all staff.

Submitted by MEMA Administrative Officer, Kelly McGuire

Exercise & Training Updates

2009 NIMSCAST System Updates

The NIMSCAST system has been updated with the 2009 Compliance Metrics. Completion of ICS 400 for appropriate personnel is the only new 2009 item over updating the 2008 compliance information. When logging into the system it will initially show 0% compliance for your locality until the information provided last year is updated. This can be done by accessing the Assessment section and verifying the pre-filled data for your account is accurate and clicking "COMPLETE" at the bottom of each item to update the system. For items where corrections or updates are needed, look for nota-

tions in RED with instructions.

Once completing the full set of metrics you will then be able to see your locality's current compliance levels for 2009 and can Rollup.

REMEMBER – The State Compliance deadline is September 16, 2009 for all Maryland NIMSCAST users. The use of NIMSCAST is now **MANDATORY** to report your NIMS compliance for your locality to access any Federal Preparedness Grant funding.

If you have any access changes or problems with NIMSCAST, contact Charlie Simpson, NIMS/ICS Coordinator, at csimpson@mema.state.md.us.

MEMA's Training Registration Goes Virtual

MEMA's Online Training Registration capability will be functional starting July 1st. Applicants will continue to go to the MEMA online calendar for course information. Once a course is selected, applicants will now be able to apply online by filling out the online application. A notification email will be sent to inform applicants that their application has been sent. A following notification will be made to each applicant confirming their place in the class. This capability will streamline the training application process. Those wishing to continue to apply via fax may do so also.



New Citizen Corps Coordinator Named

Robert Ward has been named to the position of Citizen Corps Administrator for the Maryland Emergency Management Agency. Robert has been the resident Hurricane Planner at MEMA for the past 7 Years.

In his new position, Robert will be responsible for carrying out

the state's Citizen Corps program. This includes providing leadership and administrative support to state and local Citizen Corps activities and emergency support functions. In addition, the position will develop a statewide Citizen Corps Council and coordinate the activities of the Maryland

Civic Guard.

Robert will also serve as MEMA's liaison for ESF 15, donations and volunteer management.

Please join us in congratulating Robert on his new position!

MEMA's Exercise & Training Branch Expands



Paul Hajek (left) and John Broadus

MEMA is pleased to welcome two new faces to the Exercise and Training branch, John Broadus and Paul Hajek.

John T. Broadus, Jr. brings more than 30 years of public safety/law enforcement experience to MEMA, having retired as a Sergeant from the Baltimore Police

Department. His public safety responsibilities included first response duties as well as the supervision and instruction of police personnel.

John has served as the Education and Training Coordinator and instructor for both the Baltimore Police Academy and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Community Policing Institute (MARCPI). John has conducted "Domestic Preparedness" training in Maryland area Senior Centers, and facilitated "Media Relations" and other training in the Mid-Atlantic

region covering Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia.

John has a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from Villanova University. He also has a Master's Degree in Management from The Johns Hopkins University. He comes to MEMA as the National Capital Region Exercise and Training Administrator and Training Lead.

Paul Hajek retired from the Howard County Police Department as a Lieutenant and held several command positions including responsibility for Special Operations and Information

Management. He is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy. Paul was then appointed the Chief of Communications for Howard County and managed the newly consolidated Police/Fire/911 Center and EOC.

Prior to joining MEMA, Paul was employed by the Maryland Police & Correctional Training Commissions and held several positions, the last of which was Director of Entry Level Police Programs.

Paul has a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from UMBC and joins us as the Exercise and Training Branch Manager.

2010 Unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has released the FY 2010 grant guidance for the Unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program which includes, the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Pre-Disaster Mitigation, Flood Mitigation Assistance, Repetitive Flood Claims, and Severe Repetitive Loss.

This guidance is being released prior to the Federal budget appropriation for FY10. The PDM, FMA, RFC, and SRL programs are subject to the availability of funding, as well as any directive or restriction with respect to such funds. The grant application period is open now, with all applications due to MEMA by COB Friday, October 2, 2009.

The grant guidance can be found by visiting FEMA's website, www.fema.gov/government/grant/hma.

Anyone with any questions regarding this grant program should contact State Hazard Mitigation Officer, Carver Struve, at cstruve@mema.state.md.us.

FEMA Joint Housing Task Force

For most incidents, individuals are generally able to return to their homes within hours or days of the event. However, for more serious events, where numerous residential dwellings have been destroyed or rendered uninhabitable for an extended period, *interim housing assistance* is required. Under the FEMA Individuals and Households Program (IHP) Temporary Housing component, interim housing is provided during the intermediate period (generally up to 18 months or the maximum amount of financial assistance available by law) between emergency *sheltering* and the securing of a *permanent housing* solution by the disaster survivor.

Options for interim housing vary greatly, depending on the nature and size of the event. If rental resources are available, and infrastructure is not badly damaged, rental properties will provide the bulk of the interim housing. However, if the damage to the community's infrastructure is more significant and there are not enough rental properties to meet the needs of the impacted population, other options must be considered. This, of course, increases the complexity of the housing mission, as more levels of government and the private sector become involved.

FEMA's approach is to provide safe, flexible interim housing options that are appropriate to the community and the disaster. The 2009 Disaster

Housing Plan can expand to employ the full range of interim housing options and capabilities. FEMA may, in close coordination with the State and local communities, provide *interim housing* to eligible disaster survivors when they are unable to quickly return to their pre-disaster dwellings, or are unable to quickly secure permanent housing. FEMA's prioritized approach to interim housing is as follows:

First: Maximize Available Housing Resources

Second: Use Manufactured and Alternative Interim Housing

Third: Employ Innovative Forms of Interim Housing

Fourth: Authorize Permanent Construction



After attending the FEMA Temporary Housing ribbon cutting ceremony at the Emergency Management Institute, MEMA Lead Planner Ruth Mascari stated, "MEMA, along with other state agencies, is working toward the establishment of the State Led Housing Task Force as part of the Long Term Recovery Work Group." Questions regarding the FEMA program or Maryland's initiatives in temporary housing may be directed toward Ruth Mascari.

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Please submit suggestions and comments to Erin
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Staff Recognition

Roger Bennett, Western MD Regional Administrator, was recently awarded a Secretary's Commendation from the MD Department of Agriculture for his participation in a MDA Exercise held in April. Roger has been invaluable to MEMA and will be greatly missed, as he has accepted a Homeland Security Planner position with Allegany County. Good luck to Roger in this exciting new position!

Congratulations to MEMA Webmaster, Eric White, and Special Projects Coordinator, Erin Holloway, on receiving the Maryland Military Department Notable Employee Award. Eric and Erin were recognized at the MMD Employee Recognition Picnic on May 29th.

MJOC Supervisors Gary Zamerski and Chuck Webster, and Watch Officers Joanne Hohman and Larry Cohen were all recently certified by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management as Certified Emergency Management Assistants. Congrats to all on this notable achievement!

Special Delivery! Erin & Kurt Holloway, and their daughter Brooklyn welcomed the newest addition to their family on June 26th. Kiersten Elizabeth was born at 9:04am, weighing in at 8 lbs 3oz and 20 inches long.

Washington County Emergency Management

Drastic changes within the County are also occurring within our DEC. From 1975 to present our County's Emergency Communications and Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) has been operating from our current facility taking 9-1-1 requests for services and dispatching our fire and EMS resources. Law enforcement requests for services were transferred to one of three agencies – Hagerstown City Police Department, Maryland State Police, and Washington County Sheriff's Office. In 2002, Washington County began the process of creating specifications and designing a new communications system that would meet the vast challenges faced by our county. The system would also allow for interoperability across the surrounding regions and various states. In addition to addressing interoperability locally and regionally, the division has been actively involved in a project that will bring interoperability across western Maryland known as Washington Alleghany Garrett Interoperability Network "WAGIN". During the years for developing the system, discussions also began regarding the consolidation of various PSAPs to include all of the professional personnel and services being provided by each agency. As of July 2009, our DEC will take on a totally new appearance as a consolidated 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Center. All emergency response requests for services will be facilitated from a single center. Additionally as of September 2009, our emergency communications personnel, emergency responders and other allied agencies will begin functioning on the county's new Motorola 450MHz Digital Trunked Radio System.

As our Department of Emergency Communications continues to expand, I would personally like to thank the many that have made significant contributions in support of our future vision. Should anyone have any specific questions relative to our Department of Emergency Communications, please contact Bardonna Woods, Director.

The division also provides support and resources to our County's emergency responders through our Department of Special Operations and our Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Coordinator. Our EMS Coordinator Brigitte Heller is responsible for quality assurance/improvement within our EMS. She also assures our compliancy with local, state and federal requirements specific to emergency medical response. As the division prepares for future growth and enhanced delivery of services, we are currently in the process of establishing and hiring additional advanced life support personnel beyond those of the current services being provided by our volunteer corporations within Washington County. Other initiatives include enhancing our capabilities in mass casualty response and working collaboratively with our local receiving hospitals specific to med surge capacity.

Our special operations department is responsible for several of our emergency support functions and provides personnel and equipment for our hazardous materials response, technical rescues and "working fire response" profiles. The department's responses are managed through a group of dedicated volunteers that support special operations responses along with some of whom also support their volunteer department where they reside. DES currently employs ten part-time personnel within the department for staffing enhancements. For questions specific to our Department of Special Operations please feel free to contact Chief John Bentley.

I have to acknowledge my recently hired Deputy Director, Charles Summers. Charlie's tenure in law enforcement and his amount of experience and knowledge will provide even greater depth to both the division and I. Charlie's experiences include retiring from the City of Hagerstown Police Department as Captain in charge of operations and acting Chief. In addition he continues to function with Civil Air Patrol and remains active with the City of Hagerstown where he resides.

Again, Welcome to Washington County! I have been involved with fire and emergency services my entire life. From growing up in Frederick County, 19 years of service with the Baltimore County Fire Department, and more than 20 years of service as a Volunteer with Washington County, I truly appreciate all of the opportunities of which I have received. I especially appreciate the opportunity of being Director of Emergency Services in Washington County and working with the entire Maryland Emergency Management Agency staff to both address and meet the needs of the citizens within Washington County.

Respectfully,
Kevin L. Lewis, Director