

# 2018 Annual Report of the Governor's Emergency Management Advisory Council

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*A Report to the Governor and the Maryland General Assembly*



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## **I. Purpose, Mission, and Scope of Work**

The Governor's Emergency Management Advisory Council (GEMAC) is authorized by statute and is charged with advising the Governor on all matters that relate to emergency management in Maryland.<sup>1</sup> In addition, Executive Order 01.01.1987.11 designates the GEMAC as Maryland's State Emergency Response Commission<sup>2</sup> (SERC) in accordance with Title III of the Federal Superfund Amendments.

A primary focus of the State's overarching emergency management strategy is a whole-community approach, working not only with government stakeholders at the federal, state, and local levels, but also with non-governmental organizations, private sector partners, communities, and individuals throughout the emergency management system. In keeping with this whole-community approach, the GEMAC brings together subject matter experts from a wide range of disciplines, backgrounds, and geographic areas to discuss and develop specific recommendations for further study or investigation. As an independent advisory body, GEMAC members are given the opportunity to provide input and comment on the State's activities in moving Maryland forward and developing a comprehensive emergency management program.

## **II. Chairman and Membership**

By law, the GEMAC must include: fair and reasonable representation for local government; representation for organizations that represent volunteer firefighters and rescue squads; and representation from manufacturing, utilities, and communications industries. There is no size limit or minimum membership requirement for the GEMAC; individuals appointed to the GEMAC serve two year terms.

The Chairman of the GEMAC is Clay B. Stamp, Assistant County Manager and Director of Emergency Services in Talbot County, Senior Adviser to the Governor, and previously Executive Director of the Opioid Operational Command Center. The current GEMAC is composed of 16 members, including the Chairman. The terms of the current GEMAC members began January 2016; all current members have been re-appointed for an additional 2-year term beginning January 2018.

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<sup>1</sup> Maryland Code Annotated, Public Safety Article, §§ 14-105 (a) and (d)

<sup>2</sup> Code of Maryland Regulations 01.01.1987.11

GOVERNOR'S EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL	
Name	Title
Clay Stamp (Chairman)	Assistant County Manager/Director of Emergency Services, Talbot County
John Allen, Jr.	Vice President, Delmarva Power
Mike Berna	Maryland Fire Chiefs Association
Becky Brashear	Assistant General Manager, Maryland State Fair
Timothy Cameron	Sheriff, St. Mary's County
Richard DeVore, Jr.	Maryland State Firemen's Association
Jonathan Favorite	Director of Technical Services, Communications Electronics, Inc.
Ronald Gill	Director of Emergency Management/Deputy Director of Homeland Security, Prince George's County
Joseph LaFleur	Manager, Crisis Management/Business Continuity/IT Disaster Recovery, GP Strategies Corporation
Jennifer Martin	Director, Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response, Baltimore City Health Department
Thomas Moran	Executive Director, All Hazards Consortium
Howard Safir	Chairman and CEO, Vigilant Resources International
Stephen Wantz	Commissioner, Carroll County
Keith Whalen	Firefighter/Paramedic – Retired
David Willenborg	Sr. Engineer, Technical Support, Department of Defense/NAVAIR

### III. Activities and Topics During 2018

#### A. March 29, 2018 Quarterly Meeting

As part of Gov. Larry Hogan's Executive Order on addressing active assailant incident preparedness and coordination, the Maryland Active Assailant Interdisciplinary Work Group (AAIWG), led by the Maryland State Police and the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS), has been tasked with enhancing Maryland's preparedness for these types of events.

- The workgroup was initially formed in 2013 and includes experts from across the state tasked with preparing guidance for a multi-discipline response to an active assailant incident

- The workgroup previously developed a guidance document on active assailant incidents for first responders in 2014
- Currently working on providing more structure/drafting charter for workgroup
- Taking a “whole community” approach and seeking input from schools, government agencies, corporations, first responders and the general public to help develop positive ideas to help prevent incidents
  - Asking the public to provide feedback by taking a short survey at <http://mema.maryland.gov/Pages/ActiveAssailantSurvey.aspx>.
  - Additional information:
    - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xiM1sq4oYVU>
    - <http://news.maryland.gov/msp/2018/03/29/maryland-work-group-seekscommunity-input-on-active-assailant-incidents/>
  - Contact information: Randy Linthicum (MIEMSS): [rlinthicum@miemss.org](mailto:rlinthicum@miemss.org), Travis Nelson (MSP): [travis.nelson@maryland.gov](mailto:travis.nelson@maryland.gov), Workgroup: [aaiwg.mema@maryland.gov](mailto:aaiwg.mema@maryland.gov)

There was an update that included the Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attack (CCTA) Grant Project Update:

- Maryland was awarded 2.1 million dollars as part of FEMA's Preparing Communities for Complex Terrorist Attacks Program.
- MEMA has brought on a project manager and will be working with local jurisdictions to coordinate and facilitate project
- The project has three phases:
  - Phase 1 - Gap Analysis
  - Phase 2 - Planning
  - Phase 3 - Training & Exercise

There was also an update from the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) Emergency Managers Affiliate & NG911.

- Both the MACo Emergency Managers Affiliate and MACo have set NG911 as a top priority.
- MACo has established a standing Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) committee
- Senate Bill 285: Commission to Advance Next Generation 9-1-1 Across Maryland Establishment

- Passed (Senate, Feb 20; House, March 21)  
<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?pid=billpage&stab=01&id=SB0285&tab=subject3&ys=2018RS>
- Requires the Commission to report its final findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly by December 1, 2019
- The Emergency Number Systems Board (ENSB) has approved project funding for text to 9-1-1 for all jurisdictions
- ENSB has contracted a company to assess cyber vulnerabilities at PSAPS; recommendations will be shared with ENSB and local jurisdictions

Chairman Stamp discussed an update from the Opioid Operational Command Center:

- State of Emergency remains in effect, continuing to work with state and local partners to build outcome indicators to identify gaps
- Working to engage education, business, and faith-based communities in combating crisis
- Have been sharing Maryland's approach with other states through National Governors Association and National Emergency Management Association
  - Federal government is not using NIMS to streamline approach/funding, makes coordination more challenging

An update on Wireless Emergency Alerts and nuclear/radiological risk communication was given:

- Hawaii's false ballistic missile alert in January has prompted questions of whether this could happen in Maryland
  - Very unlikely for "accidental" message to be sent out by Maryland due to protocols in place at MEMA; 2 person sign off required, secure room with badge access
- Federal/State/Local rules for WEA use
  - Currently there is some confusion/lack of clarity over who would send initial alert in case of a missile threat
    - State under the impression that DOD/FEMA would send out an initial alert, with the State sending out a follow on message, as the federal government would likely be first to detect threat
    - FEMA under impression that states would originate and send message
    - Issue has been discussed with FEMA administrator, protocol still needs to be put down in writing

- How can we better use WEA
  - WEA alerts issued in Harford when I-95 was shut down, geocoded to people in the area
  - National Capital Region is doing coordinated WEA test on April 5th
  - Technology can be unreliable, should not be the only source of messaging
    - Need to consider other sources for continuity of communications in case of failure

## **B. May 29, 2018 Quarterly Meeting**

Members of the GEMAC reported on SERC Business:

- The SERC subcommittee has processed and approved several Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) appointment requests, most recently for Frederick and Wicomico counties
- The SERC subcommittee is planning to hold a meeting in June to discuss the allocation of Hazardous Material Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grant funds, pending the funding announcement from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)
- MEMA handles administrative support, processing, and approvals of LEPC appointments and MDE handles processing and storage of Tier II Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory Reports.

There was an update provided for Next Generation 911:

- Legislation to appoint 911 Commission was passed and the first set of appointments to the Commission has been announced
- Does/will the Commission consider impacts of NextGen 911 technology on operators?
  - No; MACo affiliate ECC subcommittee is addressing

MEMA Chief of Staff, Terry Thompson, reported on business involving MEMA:

- Due to a facility issue, MEMA activated its Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) for two weeks in the beginning of May. The Maryland Joint Operations Center relocated to the Harford County EOC during the COOP activation
- The National Level Exercise occurred during the COOP activation and MEMA participated from Harford County EOC

Chairman Stamp discussed an update from the Opioid Operational Command Center:

- Continuing to close gaps on programmatic measures on core objectives and monitor impact indicators such as deaths, non-fatal overdoses, neonatal abstinence syndrome, etc.
- Overdose numbers are still high; slight decrease in number of nonfatal overdoses
- Hospital emergency departments are at 100% compliance on standard discharge protocols
- Schools are generally at a 50% compliance rate statewide with special classroom programs and school special events and 35% on new curriculum

Mike Berna provided an overview of the Search and Rescue Workgroup in Maryland

- Search and Rescue Workgroup was established by MEMA director and has been working to develop a statewide response system plan
  - System is based on typing, credentialing, mission ready packages
- There is some lack of clarity/communication regarding other search and rescue efforts going on within MEMA
- Mike Berna requested that the GEMAC provide support for the implementation of the workgroup's statewide response system plan
  - GEMAC members requested additional information on statewide response system plan and an update from MEMA regarding search and rescue efforts prior to a decision on support for the plan

Tom Moran provided a briefing on the All Hazards Consortium and the Sensitive Information Sharing Environment (SISE) tool they are developing.

- Facilitates communication and integration between private/public sectors
- SISE – modeled as an app, currently in pilot phase
  - provides secure, vetted access to verified data
  - real-time situational awareness based on real life events

## **IV. Prospective Outlook for 2019**

### **A. Overview**

In the coming year the GEMAC intends to work with Director Strickland and his leadership team to continue to identify strategies to enhance existing capabilities and develop a comprehensive statewide emergency management program centered

on Preparedness; prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery in partnership with the federal government, local jurisdictions and the private sector. The GEMAC will also continue to engage with the Emergency Number Systems Board on issues related to emergency management and the NG911 implementation issues.

## **B. Upcoming Meetings**

The GEMAC meets on a quarterly basis, with additional meetings scheduled as needed. Anticipated quarterly meeting dates for 2019 are as follows:

February 2019

May 2019

August 2019

November 2019

## **V. Conclusion**

The GEMAC hereby submits this report along with its wishes of sincere appreciation from the individual members of the Council for the opportunity to serve the citizens of Maryland.

Respectfully submitted this 1st day of December, 2018:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clay B Stamp". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Clay B. Stamp, Chairman  
Governor's Emergency Management Advisory Council