



**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS**  
The Monthly Electronic Newsletter of  
Homeland Security and Emergency Management  
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A State Police SWAT unit approaches the State House in tight formation as part of Operation Collaborative Effort. The team secured the area outside of the Visitor Center and the Governor's Office as hostage negotiators persuaded the "shooters" to surrender.

Department of Safety photo

**AMBITIOUS EXERCISE KEEPS RESPONDERS BUSY** – About 150 police, fire and emergency management personnel took part in an intense exercise in Concord on May 4<sup>th</sup>, designed to test interagency cooperation and coordination during simultaneous incidents. Operation Collaborative Effort began with the discovery of a suspicious package in a vehicle in the Legislative Office Building garage. Then armed suspects attacked the State House, shooting a security officer and taking hostages in the Governor's Office and Visitor Center. At the same time a gunman opened fire at N.H. Technical Institute, wounding 19 students and staff. An armed man, later found to be a hunter, was reported in the woods near the Merrimack River, prompting a water search.

The exercise involved State Police, including SWAT units, K-9 units, the Explosives Unit and Communications; Marine Patrol; E-911; Fire Marshals; N.H. Homeland Security and Emergency Management; Fish and Game; Concord Police and Fire and State House Security. “Victims” were students from New England College and NHTI. In addition to the State House and NHTI, the Concord Hospital emergency room participated, receiving wounded victims and treating them. Initial reports from participants and observers indicated that responders established an effective unified command and the exercise was successful. A detailed after-action report is being prepared.

**NEW ENGLAND EM ADVISORS MEET IN BAY STATE** – The FEMA Region I Regional Advisory Council (RAC) met April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Federal Regional Center in Maynard, Mass., to report on and discuss a variety of issues raised by its subgroups. The RAC, which is led by honorary co-chairs, Governor John Lynch of New Hampshire and Governor M. Jodi Rell of Connecticut, and FEMA Regional Director Art Cleaves, met for the first time in January. Among the issues discussed was expectations by the public of FEMA following a disaster. A number of participants noted public misperceptions about what assistance may actually be available during recovery from a disaster. The group was briefed on a new school program and also discussed the need to continue a focus on family preparedness. The panel meets quarterly.

**COADS BEING ORGANIZED TO COORDINATE DISASTER RESPONSE** – A new player in disaster response and recovery has emerged from the experience of the floods of recent years. COADs, or Community Organizations Active in Disaster, are being set up in several parts of New Hampshire to coordinate the efforts of volunteers, non-profits and businesses in an organized system to direct goods and services to disaster victims. The first such organization in the state coalesced in the Monadnock Region in the wake of the October 2005 flood among organizations there working on long-term recovery. A similar process occurred in Greater Manchester following the April 2007 flood. The Manchester COAD was instrumental in assisting the victims of two major fires in the city this spring that left more than 100 people homeless. The COAD set up operations in a school and provided one-stop shopping for fire victims, many of whom had lost everything they owned. COADs are currently under discussion in Strafford County and in Portsmouth.

COADs include voluntary organizations such as the American Red Cross and Salvation Army, which have traditionally aided disaster victims. But they also include United Ways, service clubs and private businesses, which can donate money, goods, services and manpower to disaster recovery efforts.

**SEABROOK RETURNS TO SERVICE** – Seabrook Station resumed supplying power to the New England grid on May 9<sup>th</sup> after being out of service for 38 days for refueling. This is the 13<sup>th</sup> operating cycle since the plant began operating in 1990. During the outage, technicians replaced 84 of the plant’s 193 uranium fuel assemblies and carried out 2,100 planned maintenance activities. Seabrook’s operating cycle is 18 months, after which the plant must be refueled.

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CONFERENCE TO BE HELD** – The fourth annual N.H. Emergency Preparedness Conference, titled *Reinforcing the Foundation*, is scheduled for the Radisson Hotel in Manchester on June 25<sup>th</sup>. The day-long session will include a keynote panel on the hostage incident at the Clinton campaign headquarters in Rochester last fall. The program also includes breakout sessions on updates to the National Incident Management System (NIMS), the FBI's Weapons of Mass Destruction Program, Using Technology to Support Emergency Preparedness and Response and a variety of others. The 2008 Stovepipe Award will be presented during lunch. There is no charge for the program.

Registration for the conference is due by June 18<sup>th</sup>. Registration information is at [www.nh.train.org](http://www.nh.train.org) or by calling 573-3306.

**HSEM AND WMUR-TV COOPERATE ON HURRICANE PROMOTION** – With the Atlantic hurricane season getting underway on June 1<sup>st</sup>, N.H. Homeland Security and Emergency Management and WMUR-TV will again be cooperating on a hurricane public information campaign. Weather forecasters at the station will remind viewers about hurricane safety precautions and provide the mailing and e-mail addresses to receive a free hurricane tracking chart and other information. HSEM always receives a large number of inquiries every time the offer is mentioned on the air.

Hurricane tracking charts are available by sending name and mailing address to Hurricanes, HSEM, 33 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03305 or [hurricanes@hsem.nh.gov](mailto:hurricanes@hsem.nh.gov).

**NESEC DIRECTORS MEET IN PORTLAND** – The board of directors of the Northeast States Emergency Consortium met in Portland, Maine on May 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss a variety of issues affecting the region. The board is made up of the emergency management directors of the six New England states, New York and New Jersey. Among the issues under consideration were regional exercise planning and scheduling, coordinated evacuation planning and state relationships with FEMA and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Directors were also briefed on a new public alerting system called NY Alert. Also meeting at the same time were NESEC public information officers and state geologists from the region.

**CHANGING PLACES** – HSEM's Fallon Reed has moved from the Operations Section, where she was a program assistant, to the BioTerrorism Section. Her new position is response clinic coordinator.

**CLARIFICATION:** Last month's newsletter reported that the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant reduced power for several days so that technicians could search for a coolant leak. The article should have pointed out that the steam leak was in the plant's secondary, or non-nuclear, cooling system.