



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS
The Monthly Electronic Newsletter of
Homeland Security and Emergency Management
N.H. Department of Safety, John J. Barthelmes, Commissioner
33 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03305
1-800-852-3792
newsletters@hsem.nh.gov

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EMS Chief Suzanne Prentiss speaks at the first EMS Recognition Day ceremony on the State House steps. Also shown (l-r) are state Rep. Andrew White, D-Lebanon, a paramedic; Rep. Jennifer Coffey, R-Andover, an emergency medical technician; Safety Commissioner John J. Barthelmes; Dr. Douglas McVicar, chair of the Medical Control Board; Dr. David Strang, chair of the EMS & Trauma Services Coordinating Board and Richard A. Mason, Director of the N.H. Division of Fire Standards and Training & Emergency Medical Services. N.H. Department of Safety photo.

STATE MARKS FIRST EMS RECOGNITION DAY – State officials and emergency medical providers from around the state commemorated the first EMS Provider Recognition Day with a ceremony May 1 on the steps of the State House. Safety Commissioner John J. Barthelmes read a proclamation from Governor Lynch. Proclamations from the House and Senate were also read and there was a flyover by a Dartmouth-Hitchcock Advanced Response Team (DHART) helicopter. Legislation making the first Saturday in May EMS Provider Recognition Day was passed in 2008.

New Hampshire also marked Law Enforcement Memorial Day on May 17 with a ceremony at the Police Memorial at the Legislative Office Building in Concord.

EM CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR JUNE – The sixth annual New Hampshire Emergency Preparedness Conference, titled *New Decade, New Momentum*, will be held Thursday, June 17, at the Radisson Hotel in Manchester. The day-long conference is aimed at New Hampshire emergency management, public safety and public health officials at the state and local levels. The keynote address will be given by Richard Serino, Deputy Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Homeland Security and Emergency Management Director Christopher M. Pope will present the annual Stovepipe Award to the individuals or organizations who worked hardest to further cooperation among public safety and health agencies. The program includes workshops on lessons learned from the Durham anthrax case, crisis communications, critical infrastructure, federal disaster aid and many other topics.

Complete information on the conference is at NHEmergencyPrepConference.com and registration should be completed at www.NH.TRAIN.org.

STATE EOC ACTIVATED FOR BUS BOMB SCARE AND EXPLOSION – A 911 call from a Greyhound bus in Portsmouth set off a nine-hour-long incident on May 6 that triggered a massive public safety response, including the activation of the state Emergency Operations Center. The incident ended peacefully and there was no bomb or other weapon on the bus. A passenger thought he overheard a man talking about a bomb and notified the driver. The driver stopped the bus and it was quickly surrounded by police, including a SWAT unit and the State Police Explosives Disposal Unit. The combined local, state and federal response was led by Portsmouth police from a command post near the scene. Governor Lynch and state law enforcement officials monitored the situation from the state EOC.

The incident turned out to be the result of a cross-cultural misunderstanding. The man on the bus, thought to have a bomb, was a native of the African nation of Burundi, who only spoke Swahili. He was released after questioning and was not charged.

The EOC was also activated to support local operations on May 14, following an explosion at the MDM Muzzleloader plant in Colebrook. The blast killed two people and injured a third and caused a fire that triggered additional explosions at the gunpowder plant. Residents were evacuated from nearby homes because of the danger, but were allowed to return late in the evening. The incident remains under investigation by the State Fire Marshal's Office.

SBA TO OPEN RECOVERY CENTER FOR NH BUSINESSES – The U.S. Small Business Administration is opening a Business Recovery Center for businesses in New Hampshire that suffered damage from severe storms and flooding that occurred between Feb. 26 and March 14. The center will be open for two days, Saturday, May 22, and Monday May 24, at the Hampton Fire Station on Ashworth Avenue in Hampton Beach. Business owners will be able to meet with SBA officials to get help on applications for low-interest disaster loans. The deadline to complete economic injury applications is Feb. 4, 2011.

Anyone unable to visit the center may obtain an application by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 (800-877-8339 for people with speech or hearing disabilities). Business loan applications can also be downloaded from the SBA website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance.

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY RECEIVES DISASTER DECLARATION – President Obama has given Rockingham County a major disaster declaration due to severe storms and flooding that occurred March 14-31. The declaration is for Public Assistance to municipalities, state agencies and eligible non-profit organizations. An applicant briefing has been scheduled for May 24 at 1:30 p.m. at the Brentwood Fire Department. Governor Lynch has requested that Hillsborough County be added to that declaration. In addition to Rockingham County, all New Hampshire counties are eligible for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

PUBLIC WORKS MUTUAL AID HOLDS WORKSHOP - The N.H. Public Works Mutual Aid program held its annual workshop in Lancaster on April 27 for water and wastewater facilities, public works departments and local emergency management directors. About 30 attendees from all over the state took part. The workshop included a welcome from Executive Councilor Ray Burton, presentations by HSEM Director Christopher M. Pope and NHPWMA representatives and concluded with a tabletop exercise involving an earthquake. The program has been operating since 1998 and has more than 120 members.

For more information about the program and instructions on how to become a member, go to www.t2.unh.edu/ma.

DBHRT HOLDS FIRST ANNUAL CONFERENCE – The state Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team held its first annual conference on May 14 at the N.H. Fire Academy. The day-long session included presentations on responses to national and international disasters and assistance to the military. More than 100 DBHRT volunteers attended. DBHRT provides crisis counseling and support for victims, families and first responders during disasters and incidents that occur in New Hampshire. Public safety agencies in the state can contact DBHRT through HSEM at 271-2231.

BLEACH KITS AVAILABLE FOR FLOOD CLEANUP – The New England Conference of the United Methodist Church and Volunteers In Mission have provided Volunteer NH with 86 bleach kits for cleaning up flood damage. These kits contain a five-gallon bucket, two quarts of bleach, gloves, masks and other gear. They are available to health officers, emergency management directors, Community Emergency Response Teams, and Community Organizations Active in Disasters for distribution or storage. For more information, contact Mike Weinstein at Volunteer NH, 271-7205 or nhvoad@volunteernh.org.

Keep up with emergency preparedness information in New Hampshire on www.nh.gov/readynh and [Twitter.com/ReadyNH](https://twitter.com/ReadyNH).