



**HOMELAND SECURITY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**
NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

**END *of* YEAR
REPORT**
2022



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From the Director

Department of Safety Commissioner Robert Quinn and senior staff welcome Robert Buxton at his swearing in ceremony.

The Department of Safety's Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) provides state-level planning, preparation, exercise, response to and mitigation of natural and human-caused disasters and terrorist threats.

We work with all 234 communities in the State of New Hampshire, encompassing all school, state, and private-sector partners.

In September 2022, I was privileged to be nominated and confirmed as the Director of the Division. I work with a tremendous group of emergency management professionals to meet the needs of our stakeholders, with a direct line reporting authority to the Governor of New Hampshire while also serving as the primary contact to the United States Department of Homeland Security.

As we worked through 2022, the team continued to transition from COVID-19 response activities to collaborating with our partners to coordinate recovery efforts. We continue to manage eight on-going federal disaster declarations supporting communities' efforts to move past storm impacts. Weather-related disasters continue to be a large threat to New Hampshire and 2022 was no different with a storm from December 22-25 causing millions of dollars in damage.

Collaborating with staff members, we updated our mission to better reflect our relationship with the Department of Safety and our state, local and federal partners.

Moving forward we will support the mission of the New Hampshire Department of Safety through the effective delivery of prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts for all hazards across the state of New Hampshire.

As with several other disciplines, we have seen a tremendous staff transition. We have increased our recruitment and retention efforts to make sure we continue to provide the best customer service to all our stakeholders.

We are excited to continue this journey with the state and to set our path forward.

Please be safe each day and help us to continue to grow.

Robert M. Buxton
Director



Director Robert M. Buxton

Appointed by Governor Christopher T. Sununu and Confirmed by Executive Council on August 17, 2022.

Director Buxton joins state government following three decades in municipal fire service. He served as Chief of the Hudson Fire Department and as the Emergency Management Director for the Town of Hudson from 2013 to 2022.

Buxton has a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of New Hampshire, as well as a Bachelor of Science in Fire Science Administration from Salem State College. He is also a graduate of the Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy in Maryland.



Our Division



HSEM team members hard at work during an SEOC activation.

HSEM Management Team

Administration

Robert M. Buxton, Director

Megan Hoskins, Assistant Director

Vanessa Palange, Community Outreach Coordinator / Public Information

Community Services Section

Deborah Yeager, Section Chief

Neil Cantin, Assistant Chief

Katherine Partington, Assistant Chief / School Readiness

Business and Finance Administration Office

Matthew Hotchkiss, Business and Finance Administrator

Shyloh Casey, Assistant Chief / Business and Finance

Robert Keller, Assistant Chief / EMPG

Community Liaisons and Radiological Preparedness Section

David Vaillancourt, Section Chief

Kimberly Castle, Assistant Chief / Radiological Emergency Preparedness

Gregory Kaylor, Assistant Chief / Radiological Program Officer

Information and Analysis Center

Marilynn Burkowski, Deputy Director

Training, Exercise and Development Section

Robert Christensen, Section Chief

Rich Cloutier, Assistant Chief

Mitigation and Recovery Section

Austin Brown, Section Chief

Natasha Cole, Assistant Chief / Mitigation

Danielle Duggins, Assistant Chief / Public Assistance

Vision

Create a culture of high touch customer service in the area of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Creating a self-sustaining environment through the utilization of efficient mentoring, planning, teamwork, technology.

Mission

To support the mission of the New Hampshire Department of Safety through the effective delivery of prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts for all hazards across the state of New Hampshire.





Emergency Management Performance Grant

View of a recent Concord Emergency Operation Center (EOC) equipment project that was completed in 2022, utilizing EMPG funding.



The Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Program supports building and maintaining a comprehensive, all Hazards emergency preparedness system. This includes assisting state and local governments and other eligible agencies to build and sustain the core capabilities outlined in the National Preparedness Goal (NPG). New Hampshire's EMPG Program focuses on planning, organization/administration (project-driven), equipment, and maintenance/sustainment.

New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management applies to FEMA for EMPG Program funds on behalf of the State of New Hampshire and its local emergency management agencies, as the eligible entity.

Title VI of the Stafford Act authorizes FEMA to make grants for the purpose of providing a system of emergency preparedness for the protection of life and property from hazards in the United States. The Act puts responsibility for emergency preparedness jointly in the federal government, in partnership with the states and their political subdivisions. Through the EMPG Program, the federal government provides direction, coordination, guidance, and necessary assistance to New Hampshire, as authorized by the Act, so that a comprehensive emergency preparedness system exists for all hazards.

2022 EMPG AWARDS

Total Awards **33**

Total Dollar Value **\$958,655**

Including **\$200,000** for the 2022 Emergency Operations Center Grant Program for the town of Hampstead.



The Hampstead Fire Station Emergency Operations Center construction project was completed in May 2023.

2022 EMPG PRIORITIES:

- LEOP & COOP Plans and Updates: **18** Projects
- EOC Equipment and Enhancements: **6** Projects
- Electronic Message Boards: **2** Projects
- EOC and Shelter Generators: **1** Projects



Community Liaisons & Radiological Preparedness



Senior Field Representative Jill Piwoski

The Community Liaison program serves 234 New Hampshire communities, in addition to federal, state, and county agencies and private partners. The liaisons work to provide technical assistance to prepare, mitigate, respond, and prevent natural and human-made events and hazards. They work

In addition to the extensive REP-specific planning, training, and drills/exercises, the team provides technical and organizational assistance to the communities in other areas of emergency management including: the development of general local emergency operations and hazard mitigation plans, application to agency and federal programs, such as the HSEM Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG), Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants, Homeland Security Exercise Grants, the Homeland Security Grant Program, and the FEMA Public and Individual Assistance Programs.

During an activation of the State Emergency Operations Center, the community liaisons staff the Local Liaison desk to establish and maintain communications with New Hampshire communities, provide situational awareness, and ensure resource requests are addressed. Team members, also, staff the Planning section and support Operations. In a REP event, the local liaisons work from the Incident Field Office located in Portsmouth.

On April 6, 2022, more than 500 federal, state and local partners joined HSEM to execute the Seabrook Station Graded Exercise. Participants included DPHS staff, personnel from the 17 NH EPZ communities and the three host communities, as well as staff from multiple state agencies, making for one of the largest REP exercises in the U.S. The exer-



Senior Field Representative Elizabeth Gilboy evaluates emergency evacuation plans during an exercise.

to promote and assist in the success of the several programs HSEM has to offer. Through EMPG, HMA, Public Assistance, and the School Security Assessments, Community liaisons work to ensure the whole community utilizes the funding and planning resources HSEM can provide.

As part of Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) the community liaisons support the 17 communities within the Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) as well as 10 supporting communities and multiple state agencies involved in the specialized planning, response, and recovery from an incident at the Seabrook Station nuclear power plant. The section has 15 staff members in planning, REP liaisons, and the Radiological Instrumentation Maintenance and Calibration (RIMC) shop.



Decision makers huddle in the Situation Room at State Emergency Operations Center during the 2022 Seabrook Station Graded Exercise.



NextEra Energy Seabrook Station

Community Liaisons & Radiological Preparedness

cise culminated more than six months of planning done by the Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program. FEMA evaluated player actions against current response plans and capabilities for a nuclear power plant-related incident and compliance with the evaluation criteria set forth under the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s guidelines. FEMA’s After-Action Report (AAR) revealed that the participants of this exercise successfully demonstrated all of the required standards. Outcomes from this exercise should include enhancing and building a better understanding of the responses contained in position-based procedures as well as how they fit in the overall comprehensive and coordinated response by the entire state and EPZ to an event at Seabrook Station.



Assistant Chief of Radiological Emergency Preparedness Kimberly Castle coordinating efforts during 2022 Seabrook Station exercise.



Radiological Technician Bill Small checks radiological instrument inventories.

Radiological Instrumentation Maintenance and Calibration RIMC

The New Hampshire Department of Safety’s Homeland Security and Emergency Management Community Liaisons Section supports the Radiological Instrumentation Maintenance and Calibration Facility (RIMC). This facility is where all state-owned radiological instruments are maintained and distributed to local first responders throughout the State of New Hampshire, with a focus on communities located in the Seabrook Station Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ). There are approximately 12,932 pieces of equipment and 26,772 doses of Potassium Iodide (KI) in the field, and the same amount is stored at the RIMC facility. The equipment and KI

is rotated between the RIMC shop and the EMDs to ensure the equipment is functioning and the KI is within expiration guidelines. The RIMC facility is licensed through the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) for possession of radiological material used for the calibration of the radiological instruments that are serviced and maintained. Due to the activity of the radiological material, the RIMC facility is a secured facility as required by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

RIMC added a part-time position in 2022 for exchanging kits and completing field inventories.

2022 KITS PROCESSED AND EXCHANGED

Radiological Emergency Preparedness Kits **82**

Hazmat Team Kits **20**

Training Kits **7**

Law Enforcement Kits **6**

Training & Exercise



Evaluators Kevin Partington and Greg Gabrielli take notes during the Stratham full-scale exercise.

The Training & Exercise Program conducts emergency management training for first responders and other individuals in federal, state and local government or those in the private sector having related responsibilities. Training courses assist the public and private sectors with increasing their ability to mitigate, plan for, respond to, and recover from natural and human-caused emergencies. Training is consistent with federal initiatives and is designed to create a comprehensive and integrated system addressing all hazards at the local and state levels. Classes are offered in-person or online and include training in incident command, public information, exercise development, and train-the-trainers.



Then-Training & Exercise Supervisor Deborah Yeager teaching during a Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program class.



Training and Exercise Officer Jim Leach at the Lebanon SAU tabletop exercise.

Since 2022, the Training & Exercise Unit has ramped up its efforts after COVID-19 to provide community and private sector exercises to test their plans. In order to assist in these increased efforts, a State Exercise Officer position was added to the team to coordinate the team's exercises and be an additional source of support and interface with customers at all levels. On-going collaborations on community exercises will focus on our goal of all hazards, all New Hampshire to better prepare for anything that may impact the safety of New Hampshire residents.

In 2022, HSEM collaborated on 13 stakeholder exercises and participated in the Radiological Emergency Preparedness Seabrook Station exercise cycle.



Then-Preparedness and Response Section Chief Bob Christensen during a Cybersecurity Summit.

2022 HSEM EXERCISES

Collaborated Stakeholder Exercises **13**

2022 HSEM TRAININGS

Sponsored Trainings **119**

Total Students **2,123**





Training & Exercise

Rachel Armbricht, Tayla Jacques and Megan Hoskins at the Stratham full-scale exercise.

HSEM along with the Town of Stratham and other partners participated in a training exercise on October 27 in Stratham Hill Park.

The training consisted of a full-scale exercise involving several area police and fire departments and other first responder agencies.

The full-scale exercise was a culmination of about a year of work. More than 25 agencies and over 200 people participated.

Funding for the exercise came from federal grants. Towns can find information about available grants for training and exercises on the [HSEM Resource Center](#).

The Training & Exercise unit provides support to all New Hampshire communities, including exercise planning, development and conduct (controlling/evaluating), after-action reports and improvement plans, grant guidance, photography/videography, logistics, and equipment.



*All Hazards,
All New Hampshire*
HSEM's training and exercise philosophy wherein we seek to make sure we are covering the totality of threats across a wide range of possibilities and do so in every corner of New Hampshire with equal attention and passion.



Faith Communities



Then-Preparedness & Response Section Chief Bob Christensen presents at a House of Worship emergency preparedness seminar.

HSEM's Training & Exercise program has several products available to New Hampshire's faith communities, including three-hour emergency preparedness seminars, hate crimes workshops, tabletop exercises (TTX), and online two-hour topical presentations. Central to discussions are a focus on all-hazards preparedness and response, with priority intent to connect faith communities with their local first responders for further planning, conversation and exercises.

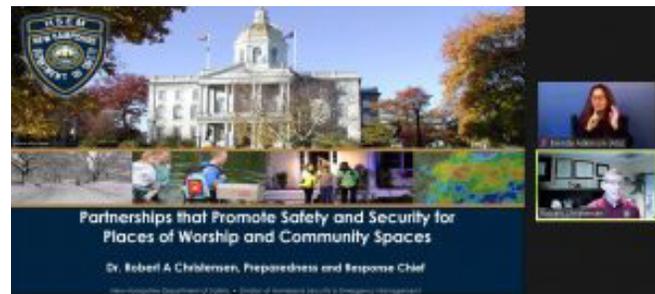
HSEM provided online House of Worship seminars on March 22 and 29, 2022, with topics including cybersecurity/safe social media use, active threat response, and first aid and medical response/automated external defibrillators.

The three-hour emergency preparedness seminar agenda includes the whole community approach to emergency preparedness with emphasis on linking faith communities with their local first responders, schools, etc.; developing an emergency operations plan (EOP); and active threat response training using the Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) curriculum. These seminars were successfully delivered on October 30, 2021, at Bethany Church in Greenland; on November 20, 2021, at Hope Fellowship Church in Jaffrey; on February 13, 2022, at the Jewish Federation in Bedford; and on May 4, 2022, at the Wellspring Worship Center in West Lebanon.

In addition, on June 22 HSEM hosted the day-long class Mobilizing Faith Based Community Organizations in Preparing for Disasters in Concord. In a time of emergency, faith-based

organizations would serve as integral partners by providing facilities and volunteer resources for municipalities. The central lessons from the class are that plans and connections made in advance of an emergency are the best practice in order for faith-based community organizations to be the most helpful and protected in times of crisis. Discussion focused on how to best enable that process and lessons learned from past experiences nationwide.

As the nation continues to confront violence both online and in person within its houses of worship, emergency management agencies and first responders must take already stressed resources and work to assist in saving lives. HSEM is on the forefront of this effort, working alongside New Hampshire's outstanding safety system including local emergency management directors, state and local dispatch, fire, EMS and law enforcement. The connections made through the Houses of Worship program have and will continue to be encouraging and meaningful.



On September 20, 2022, HSEM's then-Preparedness and Response Section Chief Bob Christensen spoke during a webinar hosted by the DHS Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships and the Cyber Security and Infrastructure Security Agency. In support of National Preparedness Month and Protecting Places of Worship National Week of Action, the topic of the webinar centered on the development of partnership models that promote safety and security in community spaces and places of worship. With other local, state and territorial partners in attendance, Christensen shared details of what New Hampshire has achieved over the years in supporting and protecting faith communities. Challenges were discussed, success stories were analyzed, and collective takeaways helped lay the groundwork to further strengthen the safety and security measures in houses of worship across the country.



Rev. Dr. M. Chris Herring speaks during the Mobilizing Faith-Based Community Organizations in Preparing for Disaster session in Concord on June 22.



State Emergency Operations Center

Director Buxton prepares for an interview with WMUR during a winter weather SEOC partial activation.

The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) serves as the central point of coordination for state-level emergency management and response activities. The SEOC is managed by HSEM as the lead agency for Emergency Support Function (ESF) 5. The Director of HSEM (or designee) determines the appropriate activation level for the SEOC. The SEOC may be activated to coordinate state-level response to an emergency or in response to a large-scale planned event where state resources must be mobilized to ensure health and safety. The SEOC coordinates with the Governor's Office, FEMA Region I, and local emergency operations centers. The SEOC is located at the Incident



Planning and Operations Center (IPOC) in Concord, NH. HSEM's Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) identifies alternate locations for the SEOC should the primary location become inoperable.

HSEM partially activated the SEOC multiple times during 2022. During these activations, we took time to train some of our new employees in the different roles of the SEOC as well as what might happen in real-life events and which Emergency Support Functions might be needed for those events.



Public Assistance Coordinator Emily Fernald and Business and Finance Administrator Matt Hotchkiss during the Primary Election Partial Activation.

The SEOC has designated four emergency levels that increase in intensity, ranging from day-to-day activities associated with Steady State status to catastrophic emergency effects associated with a Full Activation. Emergency designation levels are critical to providing a consistent understanding for incident severity and associated response actions.



2022 SEOC

Activations 7

Date	Event
1/8	Booster Blitz 2.0
6/24	SCOTUS Decision on Roe v. Wade
7/17	New Hampshire Motor Speedway July NASCAR race
9/13	Primary Elections
11/8	Election Day
12/17	Winter Weather
12/23	Winter Weather

School Readiness



HSEM team members Ernie Petrin, Kevin Partington, Dean Jore, Ready the Prepared Puppy, Liz Gilboy and Austin Brown.

The HSEM School Readiness Program provides free physical security assessments for kindergarten through grade 12 public (including charter) and nonpublic (non-boarding) schools in New Hampshire. The assessments and reassessments are conducted by subject matter experts. These experts look at the physical building(s) and grounds and make observations and recommendations based on three physical security capabilities: surveillance, access control, and emergency alerting. The program works with the schools and their communities to develop Emergency Operations Plans so they may be best prepared for dealing with potential emergency events.

The School Trainings & Exercise Coordinator was funded in 2022 to facilitate trainings and exercises that focus on school-based incidents. The Coordinator works with the School Readiness Liaisons that are assigned to territories throughout the state to provide customized trainings and exercises to fit that school's specific needs. Most commonly, schools are prepared to participate in either a seminar, workshop, or tabletop exercise. These types of exercises are the least expensive and require a smaller amount of planning. Discussion-based exercises are a great way for schools to familiarize themselves with their emergency operations plan without deploying actual resources like an operations-based exercise would.



School Readiness Training & Exercise Coordinator Ernie Petrin evaluating an elementary school evacuation exercise.

There are many benefits to the community when conducting school-based trainings and exercises such as:

- Improved awareness to all-hazard situations that may impact a school;
- Opportunity to assess, validate, and review school emergency operations plans (EOPs), policies, procedures, and systems employed by your school or district.
- Identify gaps in resources, measure performance, and identify areas for improvement

Each public, charter and nonpublic school in New Hampshire must develop an emergency operations plan (EOP) based on and in compliance with the Incident Command System and National Incident Management System. The plans must be submitted to the director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management by October 15 of each year. Before House Bill 1125 was signed into law by Governor Chris Sununu earlier this year, school emergency operations plans were submitted to the Department of Education. EOPs are discussed with their respective schools during every school security assessment.

2022 SCHOOL READINESS

School Security Assessments **210**
The most in a single year since the inception of the program.

2nd School Security Assessments **381**
 3rd School Security Assessments **140**

Trainings and Exercises **18** *Which included 7 acts of violence tabletop exercises with schools and districts throughout the state.*

On October 14, HSEM's School Readiness Program completed its 1,000th school security assessment. The assessment took place at Campton Elementary School in Campton. This particular assessment was conducted by School Readiness Liaison Kevin Partington alongside representatives from the school district and local police department. The assessment included discussions about improving surveillance, access control, and emergency alerting at the school. After the assessment, a report of suggestions for enhancing the overall emergency readiness and safety of the campus was sent to the school. This was Campton Elementary's second security assessment by the School Readiness Program.



School Readiness Liaison Kevin Partington completed the 1,000th school security assessment.



School Readiness

Then-Assistant Chief of School Readiness Austin Brown.

The eighth annual School Resource Officer Conference, sponsored by the New Hampshire Juvenile Police Officers Association, took place at the Edward Cross Training Center in Pembroke on August 9 and 10. The annual conference brings together school resource officers and school administrators from around the state for two days of training and educational presentations regarding best practices for school safety. This year, 80 attendees explored a variety of topics, including



Then-School Task Force Coordinator Katherine Partington at the 2022 SRO conference.

drug trends among school-aged youth, diversion tactics, juvenile justice, the HSEM School Readiness Program, responding to school bomb threats in New Hampshire, and social media.

2022 SRO CONFERENCE

Number of Attendees **80**



Governor Chris Sununu and the School Safety Preparedness Task Force.

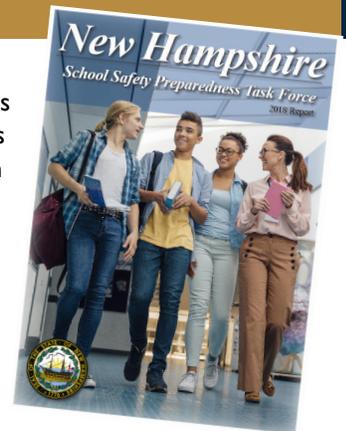
School Safety Preparedness Task Force

The School Safety Preparedness Task Force was established by Governor Chris Sununu in March 2018. The Task Force was composed of 16 members who represented stakeholders at the state and local level. The Task Force presented 59 recommendations organized into seven topic areas that were most critical to the safety and security of New Hampshire's schools while promoting the schools' primary education mission. The seven topics areas are: legislation, mental health, planning, training, exercises, communication and facilities.

Since the creation of the Task Force, the working groups have held multiple meetings. NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management hired Katherine Partington as the full-time School Task Force Coordinator in 2022. Having a full-time School Task Force Coordinator is essential to oversee the progression of the recommendations established by the Task Force, to monitor and track legislation related to school safety, and to conduct research of safety and preparedness measures as they pertain to schools.

Currently, the working groups are evaluating new initiatives with the intention of them becoming recommendations and has identified the leads for each of them. The initial planning meetings and new working groups are in the process of being established.

The [NH School Safety Resource Center](#), a central repository for all of the resources available to New Hampshire schools, was created due to recommendation 49 and announced in 2019. Information on the site includes resources for mental health, planning, training and exercises, communications, facility upgrades and additional links to other agencies. There was an average of 5,400 reads per month in the last 12 months.



Community Outreach Office



Community Outreach Coordinator Vanessa Palange presenting at the Rotary Club of Concord.

The Community Outreach Office (COO) is responsible for public education and public information. In our public education capacity, members of the office provide presentations on the topics of emergency preparedness and the role of Homeland Security and Emergency Management before, during, and after emergencies and disasters. Presentations can be tailored to the specific interest and time frame of each group, whether it be emergency managers, business or-

ganizations, service clubs or other organizations.

In its public information capacity, the office is responsible for managing public information efforts before, during, and after emergencies requiring a state-level and coordinated response. The COO also is available to assist local public information efforts through the support of the State's Joint Information Center. The office also manages social media and public education campaigns.

2022 COO ACTIVITIES



Community Outreach Coordinator Vanessa Palange setting up at the Hopkinton State Fair.

Ready the Prepared Puppy is New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management's mascot. He is always ready for an emergency because he always has his bright orange emergency kit on his back. Ready wants kids everywhere to know that they can help their families be ready for emergencies, too.

ReadyNH.gov is New Hampshire's official planning and preparedness website. In order to increase the preparedness of individuals and households in the State of New Hampshire, the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management created the ReadyNH campaign.

The ReadyNH campaign reminds visitors and residents of NH to take action and be safe! Four steps you can take to be prepared include: **Stay Informed - Have a Plan - Make a Kit - Get Involved.**



2022 ReadyNH MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

Ready Bags.....	1,902	Emergency Contact Cards	2,816
Activity Books.....	2,375	Family Emergency Plans	2,837
Packs of Crayons...	2,269	NH Alerts Brochures.....	1,928
Ready Stickers	3,153	Sticky Notes.....	2,642
Flashlights.....	1,278	Note Pads.....	2,241
Shopping Kit Lists	2,780		



Joint Information Center

The Joint Information System (JIS) provides the mechanism to organize, integrate and coordinate information to ensure timely, accurate, accessible, and consistent messaging across multiple jurisdictions and/or disciplines. The Joint Information Center (JIC) is the central location that facilitates the operation of the JIS. It is a physical or an internet-based virtual location where personnel with public information responsibilities perform media and community relations during an incident or event.

2022 JIC

Activations **1**



On Saturday, January 8, HSEM joined our DHHS, civilian medical and National Guard partners to hold Booster Blitz 2.0. Despite the inclement weather, close to 10,000 New Hampshire residents received the COVID-19 vaccine booster at one of the 14 locations around the state of New Hampshire.



TJ McPhee, Scott Lambertson, and Kevin Partington participate in #SeeSayDay.

SEE Something, SAY Something



If you See Something, Say Something® is a national campaign that raises public awareness of the indicators of terrorism and terrorism-related crime, as well as the importance of reporting suspicious activity to state and local law enforcement. Through a Homeland Security Grant, New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management provides See Something Say Something® resources and materials at no cost to New Hampshire schools, businesses, organizations, nonprofits, and state agencies. These resources and materials include: posters, social media toolkits, talking points, PSA

videos, window clings, and brochures.

Whether you are on your way to work, walking in your neighborhood, or out in your community, remember: We all play a role in keeping our communities safe. Remember to stay vigilant and say something when you see signs of suspicious activity.

See Something, Say Something materials are available online at [NH.gov/HSEM](https://www.nh.gov/HSEM).

2022 SEE|SAY MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

Posters **517**

Window Clings **104**

Brochures **263**

Lanyards **1,019**

Card Caddies **729**

Eyeglass Cases **815**

WebEOC



WebEOC & EMAC Coordinator Neil Cantin holds a training session for WebEOC users.

HSEM maintains an online crisis-disaster management system, WebEOC, to manage large- and small-scale events, disasters and support, or increase public safety information sharing — providing real-time situational awareness.

One of the primary objectives is to provide incident commanders, community leaders and command-level personnel, a common operating picture of public

safety operations, sensitive information and infrastructure problems, and/or disruptions upon which to make informed, effective decisions in response, recovery and mitigation efforts.

WebEOC is also used as a gateway to share information between the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) and federal, state, local public safety entities, and critical infrastructure partners.



2022 WebEOC

WebEOC Incidents **23**

Scheduled Events **10**

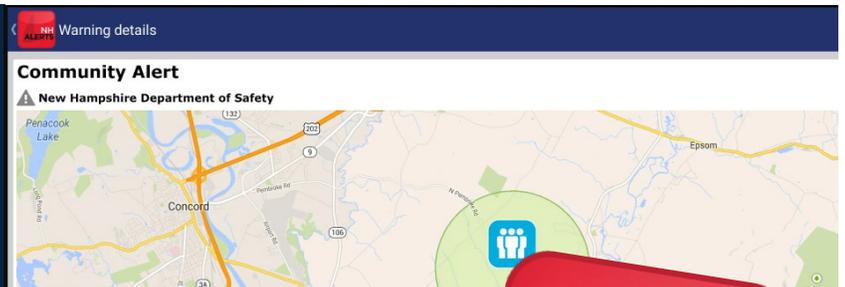
Exercises **4**

SEOC Activations **7**

New Users **269**

Trainings **23**

NHAlerts



NH Alerts is a mass emergency notification tool, powered by Code Red. The Department of Safety uses NH Alerts to provide residents and visitors with targeted public safety notices during emergencies through text messaging, email, smartphone app notifications, and telephone calling.

NH Alerts delivers free emergency, community and missing person notices generated by authorized officials at the State level. The app also delivers free weather warnings from the National Weather Service to users within the direct path of severe weather. Additionally, State of NH agencies utilize NH Alerts to send important notifications to state employees.

2022

Sign Ups **1,234**



Emergency & General Use Text Notifications **1,325**



Sign up for NH Alerts at nh.gov/nhalerts or download the NH Alerts mobile app on the iOS and Google Play store.





Public Assistance

Public Assistance Program Delivery Manager Danielle Roberts and FEMA representatives assesses damage from a December storm.

The Public Assistance (PA) Grant Program provides supplemental federal assistance to states and local communities to return an area impacted by disaster to its pre-disaster conditions and function. PA supports initiatives that protect against immediate threats to life, public safety, and property, the removal of debris as a result of a disaster, the restoration – through repair or replacement – of disaster-damaged

structures and facilities as well as COVID programs since April 2020. Eligible applicants in NH include state agencies, local governments, and certain private non-profit (PNP) organizations. The program provides emergency assistance to save lives and protect property, and assists with permanently restoring community infrastructure affected by a federally declared incident.

In regards to the December Winter Storm event, Public Assistance has completed all Preliminary Damage Assessment meetings with the affected communities. FEMA then validated the costs and a request for a federal disaster declaration was made. On March 15, 2023, President Biden granted the disaster request.

No disasters have been closed in 2022.

2022 PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

HSEM is actively managing **8** open disasters

- DR 4329 • DR 4355 • DR 4370 • DR 4371
- DR 4457 • DR 4516 • DR 4622 • DR 4624



A FEMA representative assesses damage from a December storm with Assistant Chief of Recovery Danielle Duggins (below).

Disaster Declarations

The state actively managed recovery efforts for eight Federally Declared Disasters that all have ongoing recovery operations during 2022:

- **DR 4624** - July 29-August 2, 2021
- **DR 4622** - July 17-19, 2021
- **DR 4516** - January 20, 2020
- **DR 4457** - July 11-12, 2019
- **DR 4371** - March 13-14, 2018
- **DR 4370** - March 2-8, 2018
- **DR 4355** - October 29-November 1, 2017
- **DR 4329** - July 1-2, 2017

On March 15, 2023, President Biden declared a Major Disaster for the State of New Hampshire for the severe storm and

flooding that occurred on December 22-25, 2022. DR 4693 makes Public Assistance available for eligible applicants in the four declared counties: Belknap, Carroll, Coos, and Grafton. This declaration also will open the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program statewide.



Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness



The purpose of the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant Program is to increase state and local effectiveness in safely and efficiently handling hazardous materials accidents and incidents; enhance implementation of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA); and encourage a comprehensive approach to emergency planning and training by incorporating the unique challenges of responses to transportation situations. The HMEP Grant Program is intended to provide financial and technical assistance, as well as national direction and guidance to enhance state, territorial, tribal, and local hazardous materials emergency planning and training. The program distributes fees collected from shippers and carriers of hazardous materials to emergency responders for Hazardous Material (Hazmat) training and to Local Emergency Planning

Committees (LEPCs) for Hazmat planning and training.

HMEP Grant objectives include:

- Developing and enhancing hazmat emergency response plans (ERPs).
- Determining flow patterns of hazardous materials;
- Conducting hazard analysis.
- Conducting emergency response drills and exercises of Hazmat ERPS.
- Assessing local response capabilities.

2022 HMEP AWARDS

3 HMEP awards
Total dollar value: **\$35,100**

Hazardous Mitigation Assistance



Senior Field Representative Elizabeth Gilboy and Assistant Chief of Recovery Danielle Duggins survey damage from a December storm.



2022 HMA AWARDS

36 Sub-recipient awards
Total dollar value: **\$869,333.08**

The Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) program provides grants to state and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures following a major presidential disaster declaration. The purpose of HMGP is to reduce the loss of life and property due to disasters and enable mitigation to be completed immediately following a disaster event. The program's objectives are:

- To prevent future loss of life and property due to disasters.
- To implement state or local hazard mitigation planning.
- To enable mitigation measures to be implemented during immediate recovery from a disaster.
- To provide funding for previously identified mitigation measures that benefit the disaster area.



Information and Analysis Center

The New Hampshire Information and Analysis Center (NHIAC) is a cooperative effort under the New Hampshire Department of Safety between the New Hampshire State Police and New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management. The NHIAC was established as an all-crimes/all-hazards, counter-terrorism information and analysis center providing strategic and tactical information directed at the most serious threats to the State of New Hampshire and its people. The center monitors information from a variety of open and classified sources, analyzes that information, and provides an informa-

tion product that will serve public safety and private sector interests whose mission it is to serve the homeland security, public safety and emergency management needs of their constituents and the State of New Hampshire. The center assists in the development and use of meaningful, real-time metrics in the effective and efficient deployment of public safety resources.

The NHIAC is a resource to help New Hampshire residents do their part in keeping New Hampshire safe. People may contact the NHIAC when they observe or learn of suspicious behavior that may arouse their concern. Information shared with the NHIAC will be evaluated and referrals will be made to the appropriate agencies.



Fun Committee members load up the Operation Santa Claus gifts for children throughout New Hampshire.

HSEM Fun Committee

Fun Committee volunteers head up HSEM charitable activities. The State Employees' Association's Operation Santa Claus is the main benefactor of our fundraising efforts. Last year we were able to sponsor 18 children providing gifts, toys and clothing to disadvantaged children in NH. We raised almost \$2,500 through our holiday raffle ticket sales and delicious dessert auction. Our other year-round fundraising efforts included a deputy director parking spot raffle, summer fun cooler raffle, Halloween decorating contest and meme contest.

HSEM team members helped to bring backpacks to children in need all over the state of NH. Through the NH Department of Education's Annual Backpack Drive and Concord Collections Coalition's Back To School event, 70 backpacks were collected to benefit NH children and families with back-to-school expenses.

Employees also participated in Holiday Cards for our Military. Team members filled out holiday cards with personal



HSEM staff pose with the donated backpacks that were collected.

messages for a Soldier, Marine, Airman, or Sailor addressed to "Dear Warrior." This group effort produced hundreds of holiday cards for our troops.



ReadyNH.gov
TAKE ACTION. BE SAFE.

Follow Us



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