

QUARTERLY NEWS

HOMELAND SECURITY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



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January 2016; Vol. 1

Public Assistance for January 2015 Blizzard Continues

The Public Assistance reimbursement process for local communities, schools, state agencies and eligible private non-profits for the January 2015 Snow Storm, disaster DR-4209, continues. As of January 2016, 159 project worksheets have been processed from 129 applicants resulting in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) obligating \$4,740,668 in reimburse-

ment for damage and clean up costs caused by the storm. The total cost for this event may exceed \$5 million. For more information regarding DR-4209 please visit https://apps.nh.gov/blogs/hsem/?page_id=1239 or contact Planning Chief Leigh Cheney at leigh.cheney@dos.nh.gov.

Deadline for Tier2 Submit Approaching

Tier2 reports were developed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to help facilities provide State and local officials and the public with information on the general hazard types and locations of hazardous chemicals present at facilities during the previous calendar year. Tier2 reports are due on March 1, 2016. The reports can be submitted electronically

through *Tier2 Submit*, an online form available at <http://www.epa.gov/epcra/tier2-submit-software>.

A tutorial on how facilities submit a Tier2 report is also available online at <http://www.epa.gov/epcra/2015-tier2-submit-tutorial>. If you have any questions please email NH Tier2 Coordinator Sarah Osborne at NHTIER2@dos.nh.gov.

\$721,529 Received for Hazard Mitigation Grants

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program has \$721,529 available to local communities, state agencies and eligible non-profits for mitigation projects that will reduce potential risks created by future disasters and lessen the need for future federal funding assistance. The grant funds are provided as part of FEMA's response to the January Snow Storm disaster declaration, DR-4209.

To date, seven applications have been submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for review, and an additional eight applications will be submitted to FEMA in February.

To begin the application process, potential

applicants should complete a letter of intent to provide the necessary information for the Hazard Mitigation Staff at NH HSEM, to ensure that your possible project meets the guidelines set forth by FEMA. To submit a letter of intent, go to https://apps.nh.gov/blogs/hsem/?page_id=1199.

If you are interested in receiving funding for a mitigation project or have other questions, please contact your local Field Representative or State Hazard Mitigation Officer Elizabeth Peck at elizabeth.peck@dos.nh.gov.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Workshops Available

Hazard Mitigation 101 workshops can be made available to any community that volunteers to host a workshop. Hazard Mitigation 101 workshops provide grant seekers with a better understanding of the different hazard mitigation funding programs and the application process, including scope of work, timelines and a cost

benefit analysis of accepting a grant.

If you are interested in hosting a course, please contact your local Field Representative or State Hazard Mitigation Officer Elizabeth Peck, elizabeth.peck@dos.nh.gov.



FEMA Funding Contingent on Having an Approved Hazard Mitigation Plan

Communities seeking federal funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) must have a FEMA approved local Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Hazard Mitigation Plan provides a blueprint of the community's vulnerabilities and maps the community's course of action on how to reduce or eliminate emer-

gencies and the impact of disasters affecting their community. About 90 percent of New Hampshire communities have a FEMA approved hazard mitigation plan. For more information, please contact your local Field Representative or State Hazard Mitigation Planner Parker Moore at hazardmitigationplanning@dos.nh.gov.

Funding Available Through Emergency Management Performance Grant

The Emergency Management Performance Grant Program (EMPG) assists local community, state and county agencies, dispatch centers, water precincts, village districts and critical non-profit entities in preparing for all hazards. Grant funds are available to help fund preparedness items such as generators, communications equipment and emergency plans. The EMPG Program is an open enrollment grant allowing applicants to apply for grant funds at any time throughout the year. Current high priority projects for planning initiatives include developing current Local Emergency Operations Plans (LEOPs), All-Hazards Mitigation Plans, and Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP)/Continuity of Government Plans (COG).

In 2015, HSEM released a new LEOP template

that mirrors the state's recently updated EOP. To date, 20 communities, through EMPG funding, have utilized the template with great success. Current high priority projects for equipment includes radios for schools, radio repeaters for school buildings, and generators for primary shelters, EOCs, sewer/water facilities, and critical communication structures.

If interested in applying for EMPG funds, you can do so through our resource center located at https://apps.nh.gov/blogs/hsem/?page_id=671. If you have any questions regarding the EMPG Program please contact your local Field Representative or EMPG Program Coordinator Heather Dunkerley at NHEMPGProgram@dos.nh.gov.

Emergency Management Performance Grant Reminder

If you currently have an open grant through the EMPG Program, the first Quarterly Progress Report (QPR) for the reporting period of January 1 to March 31, 2016 is due no later than April 15, 2016. QPRs are due throughout the duration of an open grant, until the project is complete and all sub-recipient activities have been completed. The reports and all other EMPG

resources are available at https://apps.nh.gov/blogs/hsem/?page_id=419.

If you have any questions regarding the EMPG Program please contact your local Field Representative or EMPG Program Coordinator Heather Dunkerley at NHEMPGProgram@dos.nh.gov.

New Emergency Management Academy Set to Launch in April

Homeland Security and Emergency Management will officially launch its new Emergency Management Academy in April 2016. The Academy's purpose is to build, sustain, and improve various emergency management capabilities within agencies, departments, organizations, and communities across New Hampshire.

The four-tiered EM Academy is geared to meet the needs of volunteers, agency and community leaders, and emergency management practitioners in a stepped approach that builds upon previous training

and experience.

Courses will be offered online and in person by subject matter experts and during seminars at the annual Emergency Preparedness Conference.

Brochures can be requested through your local Field Representative or by contacting ExerciseTraining@dos.nh.gov. We look forward to continuing to share ideas together via this exciting new program!



School Emergency Operations Plan Workshop Available

The first of five Developing High Quality Emergency Operations Plans for School workshops was conducted in January. Thirty-four participants from a variety of School Administrative Units (SAU) attended. This workshop instructed participants in how to develop a high quality Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) for their school district. Participants included SAUs from the City of Manchester, the North Country and southern New Hampshire. This workshop was funded through

a grant award from the U.S. Department of Education and in partnership with funding through the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) and with support from the Department of Education.

For more information regarding future workshops, please contact your local Field Representative or the School Readiness staff at schoolreadiness@dos.nh.gov.

HSEM Offers Free School Physical Security Assessments

The Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management School Emergency Readiness Program offers free physical security assessments of Kindergarten through Grade 12 schools across the State. There are 476 public schools and 151 private, charter and pre-schools throughout the state of New Hampshire. As of January 2016, 40 percent of all public and private schools had completed an assessment. That leaves an additional 60 percent of schools remaining.

HSEM also offers support for classroom instruction in the National Incident Management System, the Incident Command System, and Emergency Operations Plan development.

For more information about the School Emergency Readiness Program please contact your local Field Representative or the School Readiness staff at schoolreadiness@dos.nh.gov.

2016 Seabrook Station Exercise Cycle

The Seabrook Station Combined Functional Exercise #2 will take place on February 10, 2016. This is the fourth event in the 2016 Seabrook Station exercise cycle and the last before the FEMA Evaluated

Exercise in April. For more information please contact Technological Hazards Chief Diane Becker at diane.becker@dos.nh.gov.

Rochester Reception Center Exercise

Homeland Security and Emergency Management along with the Department of Health and Human Services Emergency Services Unit and the Division of Public Health Services conducted the first Combined Functional Exercise (CFE) for Seabrook Station Reception Centers in January. As part of this Seabrook Station Exercise Cycle, the Rochester Reception Center located at the Rochester Middle School will be evaluated by FEMA. HSEM personnel served as controllers and assisted with

instruments and supplies, male and female decontamination, secondary monitoring, and vehicle monitoring among others.

The second CFE for the Reception Center will be held on February 22, 2016 and the FEMA evaluated exercise will be held on March 23, 2016.

For more information, please contact the Technological Hazards Chief Diane Becker at diane.becker@dos.nh.gov.

Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events

Law enforcement officers and agencies are frequently requested by schools, businesses, and community members for direction and presentations on what they should do if confronted with an active shooter event. The Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) course, designed and built on the Avoid, Deny, Defend strategy and synonymous with the Run, Hide,

Fight strategy provides strategies, guidance and a proven plan for surviving an active shooter event. Topics include the history and prevalence of active shooter events, the role of professional guardians, civilian response options, medical issues, and drills. For more information please contact Training Officer Joann Beaudoin at joann.beaudoin@dos.nh.gov



An Alert Public is Critical to Keeping Our Nation Safe

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's "If You See Something, Say Something™" (S4) campaign is a simple and effective program that raises public awareness of indicators of terrorism and terrorism-related crime and to emphasize the importance of reporting suspicious activity to the proper local law enforcement authorities.

An important part of the S4 campaign is the Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reports Initiative and the critical role the public performs in reporting suspicious activity. Suspicious activities are behaviors and indicators that, when viewed in the totality of the circumstances, may reasonably indicate terrorism-related criminal activity. Suspicious activity reporting is focused on behaviors that would arouse suspicion in a reasonable person, including any of the following:

- Eliciting Information
- Testing of Security
- Recruiting
- Photography/Videotaping

- Observations/Surveillance
- Materials Acquisition/Storage
- Acquisition of Expertise
- Weapons Discovery
- Breach/Attempted Intrusion
- Misrepresentation
- Sabotage/Tampering/Vandalism
- Cyberattack
- Expressed or Implied threat

First Amendment activities should not be reported as suspicious activity, unless the facts and circumstances supporting the behavior observed is reasonably indicative of criminal activity associated with terrorism, including evidence of pre-operational planning related to terrorism. Race, ethnicity, national origin, or religious affiliation should not be considered as factors that create suspicion.

Please report any suspicious activities to the NHIAC Tips Hotline at 603-223-3860.

Online Suspicious Activity Report (SAR) Training Offered

The Nationwide Suspicious Activity Report (SAR) Initiative (NSI) training is designed to increase the effectiveness of state, local, and tribal law enforcement and public safety professionals and other frontline partners in identifying, reporting, evaluating, and sharing pre-incident terrorism indicators to prevent acts of terrorism. To increase the effectiveness of this multifaceted approach, the NSI has developed training programs for frontline officers and hometown security partners regarding documented and verified behaviors and indicators that, when viewed in the totality of circumstances, may indicate terrorism-related criminal activity.

Both the SAR Line Officer Training and each sector-specific SAR Hometown Security Partners Training

discuss how to report identified suspicious activity to the proper authorities while maintaining the protection of citizens' privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties. Suspicious Activity Reporting Training is available at http://nsi.ncirc.gov/training_online.aspx for:

- Law Enforcement
- Private Sector Security
- Fire/EMS
- Maritime
- Probation/Parole/Corrections
- Public Safety Telecommunications
- Emergency Management
- Public Health and Healthcare Partners

