NH Hosts 12th Annual Emergency Preparedness Conference

On June 9th, the NH Department of Safety and the NH Department of Health and Human Services held the 12th annual NH Emergency Preparedness Conference. The conference focused on promoting and strengthening interdisciplinary partnerships to increase New Hampshire’s ability to mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from all hazards. Over 40 different sessions were presented on a variety of emergency preparedness topics with nearly 800 people in attendance.

Topics included Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP), School Emergency Operations Plans, Grant Funding Applications, the Weather-Ready Nation Ambassadors (WRN) program, Exercises 101, Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events, Hazard Mitigation 101, Local Emergency Operations Plans (LEOPs), WebEOC and Community Outreach Plans.

Peterborough Fire Chief Ed Walker won the 2016 Emergency Manager of the Year award; Janet Williamson won the 2016 Most Valuable Partner award; Chairman of the Council Anthony Colarusso, Director Donald Vittum and the New Hampshire Police Standards & Training Council won the 2016 Homeland Security Partner award; and Sergeant Margaret Lougee won the 2016 School Emergency Preparedness Award.

HSEM To Host Regional EMD Meetings

HSEM Field Representatives will be conducting regional Emergency Management Director (EMD) meetings in the upcoming months. The Field Services section will provide information on the different services and classes that HSEM offers, including the Emergency Management Academy, HSEM’s new training platform for volunteers and community leaders, and grant opportunities. The meetings are county-specific for EMDs and take place in locations specific to emergency preparedness. For example, the Hillsborough County EMD meeting took place at Peterborough’s Monadnock Community Hospital.

EPZ Special Facilities To Receive Updated REP EOP Plans

HSEM Field Representatives are currently working to update Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) Emergency Operations Plans for the Special Facilities located within the Seabrook Station Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ). These special facilities include schools, nursing homes and daycare centers.
Vermont Yankee EPZ No Longer In Effect

As of June 30, 2016, the 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone around the decommissioning Vermont Yankee Nuclear power plant is no longer in effect. All fuel has now been moved to the spent fuel pool. As a result, the top two emergency classifications – General Emergency and Site Area Emergency – will no longer be used. These changes are due to the decrease in the possibility of an accident or any off-site radiation release occurring at this stage of the decommissioning onward.

School Glass Demonstrations Held

HSEM’s School Readiness staff hosted safety glass demonstrations during which glass strength was tested with a variety of potential weapons. Attendees included school safety glass companies, Department of Education staff, school resource officers, school administrators and school facility managers. For further information, contact Emergency Management Trainer Scott Nichols at 223-3642, or Jon.Nichols@dos.nh.gov.

If You See Something, Say Something To Local Authorities

New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) encourages local, state and federal agencies to work together to create safer communities by promoting “If You See Something, Say Something™”, a campaign used to raise awareness of what suspicious activity is and how to report it.

“It’s up to each of us to do our part to keep our state safe,” HSEM Director Perry Plummer said. “The people who know best when something doesn’t seem quite right in a community are the people who live and work in that community every day. That’s why we’re asking everyone to report suspicious activity to local law enforcement or to 911.”

It is important to know what to report, he said. Suspicious activity is behavior that you have observed that could indicate terrorism or terrorism-related activity, including unusual items or situations such as an unattended bag, unusual behavior such as a person
Report activity that would arouse suspicion in a reasonable person, including:

- 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

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asking questions about building security or procedures, or surveillance such as a person paying unusual attention to a building, Plummer said.

Importantly, the "If You See Something, Say Something™" campaign emphasizes behavior, not appearance, in identifying suspicious activity, he said.

To report suspicious activity, contact your local law enforcement or 911. Tell them who or what you saw, when you saw it, where it occurred, and why it was suspicious.

If you would like printed materials to help promote “If You See Something, Say Something™” in your town or with your organization, please contact HSEM Assistant Director Jennifer Harper at Jennifer.Harper@dos.nh.gov, or 223-3615.

September Is National Preparedness Month & PrepareAthon! Day On Sept. 30

America’s PrepareAthon! is an opportunity for individuals, organizations, and communities to prepare for specific hazards through group discussions, drills and exercises.

HSEM can provide scenarios, localized printed materials, videos, social media posts, etc. Contact your HSEM Field Representative for more information.

Go to community.fema.gov for information and customizable materials about America’s PrepareAthon! and to register your preparedness event.

Ready, HSEM’s Emergency Preparedness Chinook, Asks ‘Are you Ready?’

HSEM’s mascot, Ready, the Emergency Preparedness Chinook, is available to visit your community to help families and children across New Hampshire prepare for the next emergency.

To encourage preparedness among families and school-aged children, HSEM provides the Ready suit, activity books, stickers, crayons and the ‘Are you Ready?’ curriculum for any event in your community.

To arrange a visit from Ready, borrow the Ready suit or obtain materials, contact your assigned HSEM Field Representative or Public Information Officer Michael Todd at Michael.Todd@dos.nh.gov, or 223-3641.
Promote Hurricane Preparedness During Atlantic Hurricane Season

State Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) encourages communities to promote hurricane awareness during the Atlantic hurricane season which officially began June 1 and runs through November 30.

HSEM can provide EMDs with localized Emergency Contact Cards, videos, press release templates, social media posts, etc. Contact your HSEM Field Representative for more information.

The core steps to preparedness are simple: 1) sign up for NH Alerts to stay informed of emergency information that is specific to your location, 2) complete a Family Emergency Plan to know how you and your family will contact one another, where you will meet and where you will evacuate to when an emergency occurs, 3) complete Emergency Contact Cards for each member of your family to keep with them at all times, and 4) prepare an Emergency Kit to sustain your household for at least three days. More information about each of these steps and what to do before, during and after a hurricane can be found at ReadyNH.gov.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) expects a near-normal Atlantic hurricane season to bring increased activity when compared to the last three years. NOAA predicted four to eight hurricanes with winds of at least 74 mph, including one to four major hurricanes with winds of at least 111 mph.

Please contact your HSEM Field Representative to obtain materials.