



**NEMA 2017 ANNUAL FORUM**  
**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

## NEMA Public Information Subcommittee Report

Membership: PIOs from NEMA member States

### **Monthly PIO conference calls**

The PIOs participated in information sharing conference calls with topics and guest speakers that included:

- Real world responses
  - Hurricane Matthew response
  - Gatlinburg
- PIO training
  - Public Affairs Science and Technology Fusion Center, Argonne Laboratory
  - Emergency Management Institute
- IPAWS (NWS, FEMA)
- EMAP Emergency Public Information and Education Crosswalk
- State Incident Communicators Coordination Line (DHS)
- Radiological Plume Predictions for Public Information (EPA)
- Radiation Hazards Scale (CDC)
- Ready (FEMA)
- Virtual Operations Support Teams
- IPAWS activities for PIOs: Each month the PIOs are challenged with an IPAWS activity to better inform them of the system and all of its capabilities.
  - Review your state EAS plan
  - Observe your monthly EAS test through IPAWS
  - Determine if your state has mutual aid agreements for IPAWS alerting
  - Identify what kinds of alerts your agency can send (AMBER, evacuation, civil emergency, weather)

### **PIO priority projects**

- **NEMA PIO handbook**
  - Status: Expected release at the PIO workshop Sept 26-27, 2017
- **Civil Unrest Public Information Response Guide**
  - Status: Complete
  - A resource for PIOs to address communication goals of consistent, credible, coordinated information while considering the unique audiences in a civil unrest event. Digital media guidance that addresses social media monitoring, reactive re-posting and proactive re-messaging and job aids.
- **Accessibility Guide for Public Information Officers**
  - Status: Under Preparedness Committee review until 8/25; on target for completion by September 1.
  - Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended in 1998, requires federal agencies to make their electronic and information technology accessible to people with disabilities. This guide serves as a roadmap to make sure information is accessible to the largest audience possible.

### **FEMA PIO workshop Sept 26-27, 2017**

The NEMA PIOs are working with FEMA to develop a 2 day PIO workshop that will be conducted prior to the NEMA Forum in Scottsdale, Arizona. The agenda topics include: sharing public information with hard-to-reach populations due to cultural and language differences before, during and after a disaster; what additional resources are available to support public information through FEMA and DoD; making social media accessibility friendly, disaster messaging in non-Stafford Act disasters; Training for PIOs, what else is out there; public information planning/lessons learned from the solar eclipse; radiation messaging is not just for nuclear power plants; juggling multi-events; message coordination with Urban Search and Rescue Teams.

## NEMA Radiological Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee Summary

### Members:

- ✓ Richard Flinn (PA)
- ✓ Mark Ghilarducci (CA)
- ✓ James Joseph (IL)
- ✓ Joe Kelly (MN)
- ✓ Wendy Smith-Reeve (AZ)
- ✓ Mike Sprayberry (NC)
- ✓ Kim Stenson (SC)

### Current Initiatives:

1. Develop recommendations for FEMA and/or the Nuclear Regulatory Commission as a result of findings from Southern Exposure 15 which was a large-scale ingestion pathway exercise involving federal, state, and local authorities as well as the nuclear industry. An initial draft of the recommendations has been completed, forwarded to the Preparedness Committee and will be discussed at the annual forum in Scottsdale. Findings under consideration include:
  - ✓ Unified Coordination Group (UCG) membership and composition for a nuclear plant incident is not clearly defined.
  - ✓ Policies regarding Low Level Radioactive Waste (LLRW) remediation are not well defined.
  - ✓ There are funding gaps related to reimbursement to individuals and government agencies during a nuclear power plant incident.
  - ✓ State and local governments must be involved in the development of the Plan of Distribution developed at the local level to account for the needs of the population and communities and a comprehensive Recovery Support Strategy for a nuclear power plant incident has not been developed.
  - ✓ There is no central repository of federal agency guidelines, plans, or capabilities.
2. Develop best practices and lessons learned regarding JIS/JIC Operations during nuclear power plant response and recovery. An initial survey was forwarded to all states with nuclear facilities in coordination with the Public Information Subcommittee. Additional research and possibly another survey will have to be conducted but some of the current survey findings include:
  - ✓ Two-thirds of respondents indicated that they respond differently to a radiological emergency as opposed to other hazards.
  - ✓ 40% of respondents indicated that the JIC was located at a utility facility as opposed to the State Emergency Operations Center.
  - ✓ A few respondents indicated that the evaluation process is dated
  - ✓ Several respondents indicated a need to better integrate use of social media including use during evaluations.

### Future Initiatives:

1. Emergency management interface with nuclear utilities during response (ex: NIMS typing)
2. Status of NUREG-0654 (Criteria for Preparation and Evaluation of Radiological Emergency Response Plans and Preparedness in Support of Nuclear Power Plants) update
3. Review of response and recovery agricultural and scientific guidance in view of current capabilities and impacts

## NEMA Hurricane Subcommittee Report

### 1. RECOGNITION OF SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

- a. Bob Boyd, North Carolina
- b. Stewart Baker, Virginia
- c. Russell Strickland, Maryland
- d. Kurt Schwartz, Massachusetts
- e. Michael Russas, Massachusetts
- f. Chuck Phinney, Texas
- g. David Lopez, Hawaii
- h. Ryan Gonch, New York
- i. Dave DeMatteo, New York

### 2. RECOGNITION OF FEDERAL PARTNERS

- a. FEMA National Hurricane Program
- b. FEMA Hurricane Liaison Team
- c. NOAA National Hurricane Center
- d. US Army Corps of Engineers
- e. DHS Science & Technology

### 3. CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- a. Meetings - Monthly Conference Calls are held by the Subcommittee to discuss projects, issues and items of interest. The Subcommittee has held 5 calls since the NEMA 2017 Mid-Year Forum in DC. Any interested Interagency Coordinating Committee on Hurricanes (ICCOH) participants are also welcome to attend the Conference Calls.
- b. National Hurricane Center (NHC) Product Updates – The Subcommittee is honored to have Edward Rappaport, the acting NHC Director, and his staff to frequently participate in the monthly Hurricane Subcommittee Conference Calls. He provides the group with updates on new products such as:
  - Prototype Storm Surge Watch/Warning Graphic
  - Tropical Cyclone Forecast Error Cone Size
  - Centralized Forecasting of Extra-Tropical Storm Surge
  - 6 & 7 day Track & Intensity Forecasts
  - Graphical Depiction of Onset of Tropical Storm Force Winds
- c. National Hurricane Center 2017 Early Season Update – The National Hurricane Center updated the subcommittee on potential tropical cyclones and wind field in the early months of the 2017 hurricane season.
- d. NHC Webinar for Storm Surge Warning – On May 12, 2017 the NHC held a webinar for the Subcommittee to discuss the new Storm Surge Watches and Warnings. Explaining that it was necessary because storm surge is historically deadliest hazard, occurs at different locations/times than wind, and requires different a response (such as evacuation). The NHC also highlighted the difference in a Storm Surge Watch which means there is possibility of life-threatening inundation, generally within 48 hours and a Storm Surge Warning which means there is a danger of life-threatening inundation, generally within 36 hours.
- e. The Office of Cyber and Infrastructure Analysis (OCIA) Webinar – The OCIA held a webinar titled Hurricane Analysis: Forecast to Impacts on May 25, 2017. Many members of the subcommittee engaged in this webinar which focused on consequences to critical infrastructure from hurricanes and other threats. The webinar covered how OCIA approaches understanding hurricane impacts to infrastructure, population, and the economy both for real-world events and for scenarios that can be used for planning and exercises.

- f. Federally Funded Hurricane Training – The Subcommittee works with the NHP to ensure the right students are being recruited hurricane courses to achieve maximum efficiency. These courses include L-324 “Hurricane Preparedness for Decision Makers” (NHC Version), L-320 “Hurricane Preparedness for Decision Makers” (State Specific), etc. FEMA’s National Hurricane Program proposed strategy to rotate the L320 Hurricane Preparedness Course. This course is a state-specific three-day version of the L0324 Hurricane Preparedness for Decision Makers Courses that are given each year at the National Hurricane Center.

In 2018, FEMA will consider a regional rotation for the one L320 course that would be based on the L324 course regions (Gulf States, Southeast States, and Northeast States). This idea behind this rotation is to better distribute the course among states and geographic areas, and it would provide some certainty as to which regional area would be scheduled for the course in a given year.

- g. National Hurricane Program Technology Modernization Project Update – The subcommittee received an update from Bob Hallowell, DHS S&T/Lincoln Labs-MIT Regarding the National Hurricane Program modernization efforts.
- h. Hurricane Evacuation Study (HES) Updates – The Subcommittee receives HES updates each month from NHP and USACE. There is often a lively Q&A session with the participating states.
- i. Hurricane Program Manager Guide – The Subcommittee continues to refine the draft Hurricane Program Manager Guide. This document was created to assist states when they have staff turnover and need to expedite the learning process.