

Western Massachusetts Health & Medical Coordinating Coalition Newsletter

November 2017

News and Updates

HMCC Program Manager Returns From Deployment to Puerto Rico



Region 1 HMCC Program Manager Tracy Rogers returned in late October from a two-week deployment to Puerto Rico. In her off-work hours, Tracy serves as the Deputy Team Leader of the Northwest Massachusetts Incident Management Team, a cadre of trained volunteer responders available to assist towns or states with managing complex incident response. NWMIMT volunteers hail from western Massachusetts; each has extensive training in the National Incident Management System. The team has been deployed locally multiple times over the years for missions involving hazardous waste spills, search and rescue operations, brush fires and tornado response.

Tracy's task in Puerto Rico was to help coordinate air drops of food and water to isolated communities. When the Team arrived on October 16, there were 29 communities whose residents couldn't descend from their mountain homes to access food and water because so many roads and bridges were washed out. By the time the Team left on October 30, all 29 communities were accessible by truck and the air drops were no longer necessary.

"Seeing the devastation on the island first-hand, it was easy to see how it is going to take Puerto Rico years to recover," said Tracy upon her return. "I feel very fortunate to say I was a part of such a great team that helped others during such an historic event."

Welcome back Tracy!

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services Preparedness Rule, updated and passed a year ago, hit a new milestone this month: the deadline for participating providers to be fully compliant with the new rule. You can still find resources for understanding and readying for the Preparedness Rule on our [homepage](#), including a [general resource guide](#) (updated October 2017), as well as [surveyor guidance](#), and the actual [surveyor tool](#) used during surveys.

Throughout the summer and fall, Mark worked to provide technical assistance to providers who faced new and/or evolving expectations around preparedness and response, resulting in new or more robust plans, templates, and exercises within our region. As a result, our membership has grown to include several hospice, home care, and dialysis providers.

Welcome to our new members, and good luck to all of our partners with those CMS surveys! Please keep us posted!

If your organization wishes to learn more about how the HMCC can support your Preparedness Rule efforts, don't hesitate to [contact Mark!](#)

Welcome to New HMCC Leadership

Over the fall, we saw some changes in our Steering Committee leadership due to retirements and position changes. We offer thanks and best wishes to the following departing Steering Committee members and alternates who are pursuing new endeavors:

- Nicole Zabko, Public Health
- Sandra Martin, Public Health
- Beth Brett, Community Health Centers

We are pleased to offer a welcome and preemptive thanks to new leaders:

Steering Committee Representatives:

- Allison Egan, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission; Public Health
- Kelly Sitek, Baystate Mary Lane/Wing Memorial; Hospitals

Steering Committee Alternates:

- Ann Becker, University of Massachusetts; Public Health
- Cameron Carey, Community Health Center of Franklin County; Community Health Centers

We appreciate the time and effort our partners put towards the guidance of the strategic goals and direction of the HMCC. Many thanks to you all!



Happy Birthday to the FRCOG!

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments, the fiduciary agent and sponsoring organization of the western MA HMCC, celebrated its 20th year this fall. To celebrate two decades of providing regional services to Franklin County and beyond, planning staff built a retrospective storymap presentation. Feel free to take a look via the link below; we bet you will be surprised by the range and scope of services the FRCOG offers!

[Access a retrospective of 20 years of regional support and services here!](#)

New Resources

Massachusetts Hurricane Recovery Resources for Puerto Rico Evacuees

The state has compiled [guidance from the state's secretariats and agencies about helpful resources available to self-evacuees](#), ranging from employment assistance to school enrollment

information.

The guidance includes contact information and helpful instructions from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), Health and Human Services, Education, Labor and Workforce Development, Housing and Economic Development and Administration and Finance. The state is also working closely with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to identify all disaster assistance programs and resources available through the federal government.

Please share this guide widely with your community partners. It can also be found on our [webpage](#) in the Resources section.

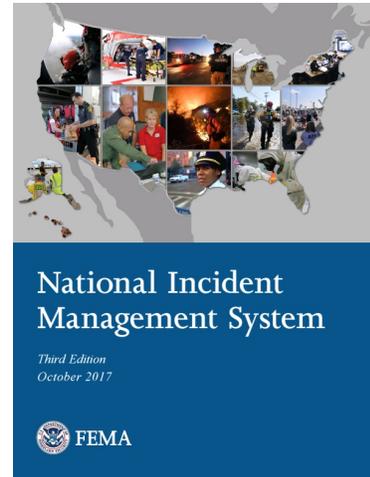
NIMS Refresh Released

FEMA released the refreshed National Incident Management System (NIMS) doctrine in October 2017. NIMS provides a common approach to enable the whole community to work together to manage all threats and hazards. NIMS applies to all incidents, regardless of cause, size, location, or complexity.

The refreshed NIMS:

- Retains key concepts and principles of the 2004 and 2008 versions of NIMS;
- Reflects and incorporates policy updates and lessons learned from exercises and real incidents;
- Clarifies the processes and terminology for qualifying, certifying, and credentialing incident personnel, building a foundation for the development of a national qualification system;
- Describes common functions and terminology for staff in Emergency Operations Centers (EOC), while remaining flexible to allow for differing missions, authorities, and resources of EOCs across the nation; and
- Explains the relationship among ICS, EOCs, and senior leaders/policy groups.

You can [access the NIMS 3rd Edition here](#).



Upcoming Trainings

Del Valle Hospital Incident Command Systems (HICS) Courses

The [Del Valle Institute for Emergency Preparedness](#) will offer two further deliveries of "Hospital Incident Command System (HICS): Response to Emergencies in Healthcare Facilities". This is the same course that was offered in western MA last spring, but for those who were unable to attend at that time, and are able to travel, it will be offered:

Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2017
Time: 8:00am - 12:00pm
Location: Methuen, MA

Date: Thursday, January 18, 2018
Time: 8:00am - 12:00pm
Location: Holden, MA

This program was designed to meet the requirements of the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing, 244 CMR 5.00 for 4.8 contact hours of nursing continuing education. While region 2 and 3 participants have registration priority, space is also available for the other regions.

To register for either course, please

DELVALLE INSTITUTE FOR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

**Hospital Incident Command System (HICS):
Response to Emergencies in Healthcare Facilities**

Wednesday, December 6, 2017
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Check in begins at 7:30 AM

Comfort Home Care
147 Pelham Street
Methuen, MA 01844

To register for this course, please visit: <https://delvalle.bshc.org/hics>
For questions about registration, please contact delvalle@delvalle.org

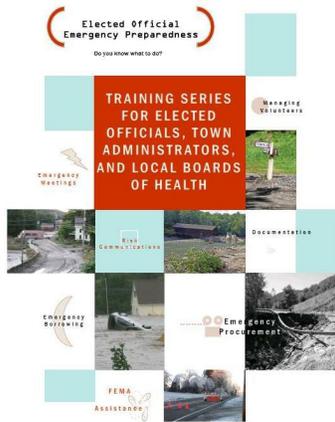
This 4-hour course provides an overview of the Hospital Incident Command System (HICS) 5th Edition. Through practical exercises and interactive discussions, students will learn the benefits of HICS and its application in a healthcare environment, including adaptations for community health centers and other healthcare settings. The program reviews the basics of the HICS organizational structure, and incorporates best practices related to use of HICS forms and incident management.

All personnel staffing the Hospital Incident Management Team are required to complete ICS training in order to maintain 100% compliance. This course is strongly aligned with the FEMA ICS-200 course and should prepare participants to complete the FEMA ICS-200 online exam.

Accreditation:
This program was designed to meet the requirements of the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing, 244 CMR 5.00 for 4.8 contact hours of nursing continuing education.

Visit the Del Valle Institute's Learning Center: <https://delvalle.bshc.org>

Del Valle Institute for Emergency Preparedness • 705 Albany Street • Boston, MA 02118 • (617) 343-1379 • delvalle@delvalle.org



Elected Officials Series - Emergency Preparedness and Response

The Mohawk Area Public Health Coalition is sponsoring an Elected Officials Training Series focusing on several aspects of preparedness and response, and geared towards elected officials, town administrators, and local boards of health.

This three-part series will focus on Risk Communication, Administrative Preparedness, and Managing Disaster Volunteers. These three workshops will then culminate with a Tabletop exercise.

These workshops will run one time each, starting in December. All workshops will be held at the J.W. Olver Transit Center in Greenfield.

[Click here for the full series flyer](#) - please share with your municipal partners!

Behavioral Analysis Workshop

Registration is now open for the WRHSAC Behavioral Analysis Workshop being held on Thursday, December 14, 2017 at UMass Amherst.

This workshop will provide participants with an understanding of common profiling concepts and behavioral analysis as applied to possible characteristics and warning signs of those who engage in violent attacks. Participants will learn guidance for gathering information relevant to indicators of possible future violence risk, and how to build a Threat Management Team to manage an identified person of concern. The relationship between law enforcement agencies and public/private agencies as part of the Threat Management Team will be explored.

This workshop is appropriate for all first responder disciplines, schools and colleges, and public and private agencies in western Massachusetts.

This workshop is a follow up to WRHSAC's Active Shooter Symposium held in March 2016. WRHSAC will again partner with the FBI Springfield Office.

Registration is required. To register and for more information: <http://wrhsac.org/news/behavioral-analysis-workshop/>

The Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council, in partnership with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Springfield, MA Branch Office presents:

BEHAVIORAL ANALYSIS WORKSHOP

This workshop will provide participants with an understanding of common profiling concepts and behavioral analysis as applied to possible characteristics and warning signs of those who engage in violent attacks. Participants will learn guidance for gathering information relevant to indicators of possible future violence risk, and how to build a Threat Management Team to manage an identified person of concern. The relationship between law enforcement agencies and public/private agencies as part of the Threat Management Team will be explored.

Thursday, December 14, 2017, 8:00am to 5:00pm
UMass Amherst

The training is free. Food will be provided.
To register & for more information: www.wrhsac.org/news/behavioral-analysis-workshop/
All inquiries can be directed to:
Raine Brown, Homeland Security Program Manager
raibne@frog.org or 413.774.3167 x138

This workshop is appropriate for all first responder disciplines, schools, colleges, and public and private agencies in western Massachusetts. This workshop is a follow-up to WRHSAC's Active Shooter Symposium.

Web Links

[Region 1 HMCC Homepage](#)

[Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council \(WRHSAC\)](#)

[Region 1 Multi-Agency Coordination Center \(MACC\) Project](#)

The Western MA HMCC is sponsored by the
[Franklin Regional Council of Governments](#)

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Tracy Rogers

HMCC Program Manager

413-774-3167 x 118

regionalprep@frcog.org

Mark Maloni

HMCC Planning and Operations Coordinator

413-774-3167 x 154

mmaloni@frcog.org