



NORTHEAST HOMELAND SECURITY COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

September 2012

Council Members

Law Enforcement

Chief Brian Pattullo – Chair
Andover Police Department

Chief James Holland
Malden Police Department

Chief Leo Sacco
Medford Police Department

Fire Services

Chief David Cody – Vice Chair
Salem Fire Department

Chief Stephen Carter
Lincoln Fire Department

Chief Jason Gilliland
Marblehead Fire Department

Emergency Management

Mark Foster
Director, Beverly Emergency Management

Ed Kelly
Director, Melrose Emergency Management

Government Administration

Paul Cohen
Town Manager, Chelmsford

Thatcher Kezer
Mayor, City of Amesbury

Public Health

Richard Day
Health Director, Chelmsford

Hospitals

Ronald Knight
Director of Security, Lowell General Hospital - Saint's Campus

Emergency Medical Services

Jonathan Epstein
Executive Director, Northeast EMS (Region III)

Public Works

Bill Hadley
Director, Lexington Public Works

Public Safety Communications

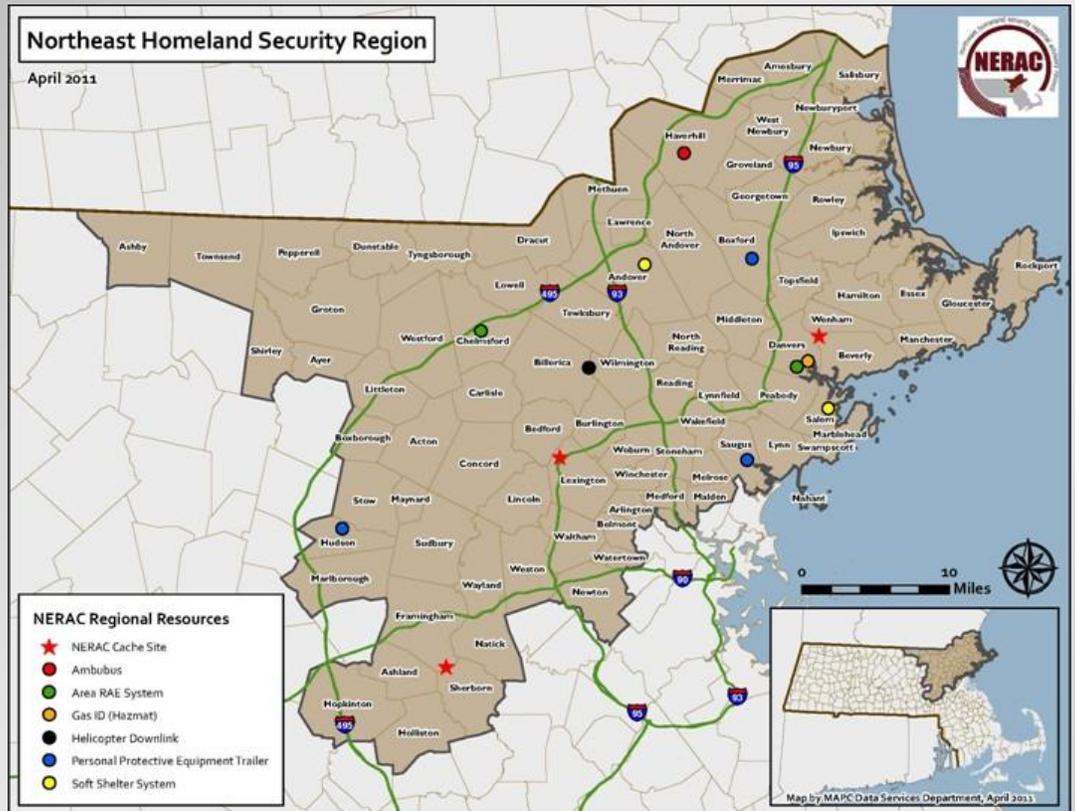
Christopher Ryan
Communications Supervisor, Andover Police Department

Regional Transit

Joe Costanzo
Administrator, Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority

Correctional Services

Sheriff Frank Cousins, Jr./Michael McCarthy, CFO
Essex County Sheriff's Office



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For more information on NERAC please visit www.NERAC.us or contact Amy Reilly, NERAC's Program Manager, at 617-451-2770 x2059 or areilly@mapc.org.

Serving 85 Communities in Northeastern Massachusetts

Fire Service Apparatus Tracking System (FSATS)

Fire Control Points serve to coordinate multiple department fire and EMS response across a fire district. In the Northeast Region the Andover (D15), Ashland (D14), Beverly (D5), and Westford (D6) Fire Control Points are interconnected through a private network that provides radio and data communications interoperability.

To aid the control points in resource management during emergencies, NERAC developed a web-based software to track all fire service apparatus during operations. This program creates a live view of available resources across each district for the control points to manage. It also contains a database with information from each district's Ambulance, Disaster, Forestry, and Structural Task Forces, as well as run cards from each community. Availability of all resources in these databases is updated using information from local dispatch centers.

Fire Service Apparatus Tracking System									
Home		Log		Super-Admin		Control-Point		Logout	
Viewing [D5 - Beverly] Control Point									
Current Availability					Control-Points				
Community	Engine	AND/OR	Ladder	Chief	Community				
Beverly	1	AND	0	0	D14 - Ashland Manage				
Danvers	1	OR	1	0	D15 - Andover Manage				
Essex	1	OR	1	0	D5 - Beverly Manage				
Gloucester	1	AND	0	0	D6 - Westford Manage				
Hamilton	1	OR	1	0	Task-Forces				
Ipswich	1	OR	1	0	Type				
Lynn	2	AND	1	0	Ambulance view				
Lynnfield	1	OR	1	0	Disaster view				
Manchester MA	1	OR	1	0	Forestry view				
Marblehead	1	AND	0	0	Structural view				
Middleton	1	OR	1	0	Active Incidents				
Nahant	1	AND	0	0	Address Community Last Update Alarm #				
Peabody	1	OR	1	0	Currently, there are no active incidents for this control point.				
Rockport	1	AND	0	0	Closed Incidents				
Salem	1	AND	0	0	Address Community Last Update Alarm #				
Swampscott	1	AND	0	0	Address Removed Beverly 4/18/2012 10:18:00 AM				
					Address Removed Salem 3/20/2012 3:28:00 PM				

National Preparedness Month

September is National Preparedness Month. This initiative is sponsored by the *Ready* Campaign (www.ready.gov), which targets increased involvement in preparedness by individuals, businesses, and organizations. This year's theme is "Pledge to Prepare - Awareness to Action." The goal is to get stakeholders to do at least one of the following:

1. Learn about emergency hazards and the appropriate responses.
2. Make a communications plan.
3. Build an emergency kit.
4. Get involved in preparedness in their community.

This is an excellent opportunity for public safety officials to engage their local special needs populations (senior citizens, persons with disabilities, pet owners) and the organizations that represent/care for them in planning and training activities.

PLEDGE to PREPARE

ready.gov/pledge

Make a difference for yourself, your community and our nation. Pledge to do one of the following:

- ✓ Learn your risks and responses
- ✓ Make a family communications plan
- ✓ Build an emergency supply kit
- ✓ Get involved in preparedness in your community




NERAC Microwave System

NERAC has established ten microwave sites in the Northeast region to increase the reliability of regional command and control communications networks for police, fire, and emergency medical services. In addition to enhanced reliability of these networks, the microwave system has also reduced recurring T1 line costs, saving NERAC, BAPERN (the Boston Area Police Emergency Radio Network), and Northeast CMED Region III over \$30,000 per year.

The NERAC Microwave System was tested in January and February of 2012 and has been fully operational since March 2012. All sites have operated without interruptions or failures since the initial activation.

Planning is currently underway for the expansion of this system, which will also include an evaluation of the 10 current sites in an effort to identify opportunities for system improvement.



NERAC Council Member Update

Three long-time NERAC Council Members recently retired from both the Council and their municipal positions. Bob Mercier, Burlington's Town Administrator, served on the Council since its inception in 2004. Town Administrator Mercier was a member of the Transport Study Working Group and the Public Outreach Working Group, and a gracious host for NERAC Council and Committee meetings. Fire Chief Andrew Paskalis of Manchester served on the Council since 2008 and chaired the Personal Protective Equipment/CBRNE Committee and Sheltering Committee. Chief Paskalis oversaw many projects on behalf of the Council, most recently the procurement of fit testing machines for the region and the offering of a NERAC sponsored Hazmat Refresher Course for first responders.

Fire Chief John O'Brien of Melrose served on the Council since 2009. Chief O'Brien actively participated on the Council and served as a member of the Training and Exercise Committee.

Mayor Thatcher Kezer of Amesbury and Chelmsford Town Manager Paul Cohen have been appointed to fill the seat vacated by Bob Mercier, and Chief Jason Gilliland of the Marblehead Fire Department and Chief Stephen Carter of the Lincoln Fire Department have filled the seats vacated by Chief Paskalis and Chief O'Brien. Chief Carter has been a long-time member of the NERAC CBRNE/PPE Committee, and will succeed Chief Paskalis as Chair of the Committee.

Respirator Fit Testing Machines

The NERAC PPE/CBRNE Committee has purchased six qualitative respirator fit testing machines for regional use. The Portacount Pro+ Model 8038 machines are stored in Boxford, Hudson, and Saugus along with the NERAC PPE Trailers, and are available for use at no cost to all municipalities that have signed the Cache User Subscription Form. Adaptors for Scott, Survivair, and Avon facemasks are available with the machines, as well as adaptors for N95 respirators. Please contact the fit testing machine host sites directly to arrange for borrowing of the machines. Contact information for the host sites and the borrowing policy can be found on NERAC Connect (www.NERAC.us) under the NE85-Regional Resources tab on the main menu.



How to Open a Shelter Exercises

NERAC is conducting four functional exercises for shelter managers and volunteers across the region. Each exercise will review sheltering concepts, issues, and resources and will focus on the setup and operation of a shelter. Backfill/Overtime and lunch will be provided by NERAC. Each exercise will include:

- An overview of when and where to open a shelter.
- An overview of resources necessary to operate a shelter (personnel and equipment).
- Information on how to borrow and use available NERAC shelter resources including Shelter Trailers, Ambubuses, Shelter-in-a-Boxes, and Soft Shelters (these resources will be present at the exercise).
- A simulation of all activities necessary to open and operate a shelter, including:
 - Assignment of shelter staff.
 - Set-up and organization of shelter areas (staff administration, client registration, food production/service, sleeping, and medical care).
 - Intake and care of mock functional needs clients.

The exercises will take place at the dates and locations below:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Framingham—8/21/2012 | • Chelmsford—9/8/2012 |
| 10:00 AM-3:00 PM | 10:00 AM-3:00 PM |
| • Middleton—8/30/2012 | • Lynn—10/13/2012 |
| 10:00 AM-3:00 PM | 9:00 AM-2:00 PM |

Please visit <http://mapc.org/nerac-shelter-exercises> to register.



Communications Unit Technician Training

NERAC sponsored a Communications Unit Technician Course at the Beverly Regional Cache Site in July. This training involved 17 public safety communications personnel in the region and put them through a weeklong curriculum designed to improve their abilities to function as an All-Hazards Communications Unit Technician (COMT) in the incident

command system. The class consisted of approximately 2 days of classroom instruction, and three days of hands-on work with design, installation, maintenance, and

demobilization of on-scene emergency communications systems for a multi-jurisdictional incident response or planned event. They learned and practiced these skills on cached NERAC Communications equipment, including the portable communications tower (left) and the portable emergency operations center (PEOC). Please visit the NE85-Regional Resources tab on NERAC Connect for more information on these resources.



New Cache Equipment

Three towable 10" trash pumps were added to the Regional Cache Sites in the Spring of 2012. These pumps are designed for heavy duty use in removal of flood waters and temporary replacement of downed critical infrastructure pumps. They displace 3600 gallons per minute, and can handle raw sewage, slurries, and liquids with solids up to 3-1/8" in diameter. Each pump comes with a separate hose trailer, which carries one (1) 25' suction hose, four (4) 10' suction hoses, one (1) 50' discharge hose, and four (4) 25' discharge hoses.



Soft Shelters

Two Soft-Sided Inflatable Shelter Systems are available for regional use from the Andover Police Department and Salem Fire Department. The systems are designed to be used for triage/mass casualty management, sheltering of victims, responder rehab, and as Emergency Operations Centers. Both are built into customized trailers, and include a 12 kW generator, 60,000 BTU HVAC system, and blower for inflation. Both systems consist of two 20' x 20' shelter sections that can be used as one unit connected by a 7' hallway, or function as independent shelters.



UPCOMING EVENTS



How to Open a Shelter Exercises

- ◆ Framingham—August 21st
- ◆ Middleton—August 30th
- ◆ Chelmsford—September 8th
- ◆ Lynn—October 13th

SCIP Update Workshop

- ◆ August 28th

Social Media Training

- ◆ October 3rd

ICS Trainings

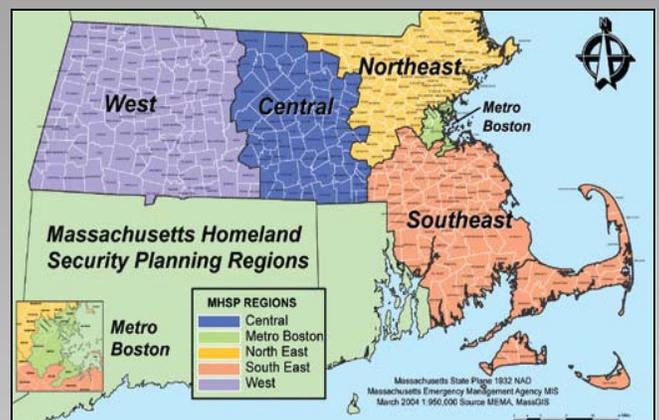
- ◆ Ongoing—Check MEMA Training Calendar for current offerings.

For questions regarding any of these events, please contact Amy Reilly, NERAC's Program Manager, at 617-451-2770 x2059 or areilly@mapc.org.

The Full NERAC Council meets on the 2nd Thursday of every month at the Burlington Town Hall.

Massachusetts Homeland Security Program

In 2004, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) designated 5 Homeland Security Planning Regions. EOPSS appointed multi-disciplinary and multi-jurisdictional Advisory Councils for the Northeast, Southeast, Central, and Western regions. These groups represent all relevant public safety disciplines, including law enforcement, fire service, emergency management, public health, hospitals, emergency medical services, public works, transportation, corrections, communications, and local government.



The Metro Boston Region is a 9 member group, with 1 representative from each jurisdiction in the region.

The Advisory Councils serve as the policy making and administrative bodies for the Homeland Security Regions as defined by the Massachusetts Homeland Security

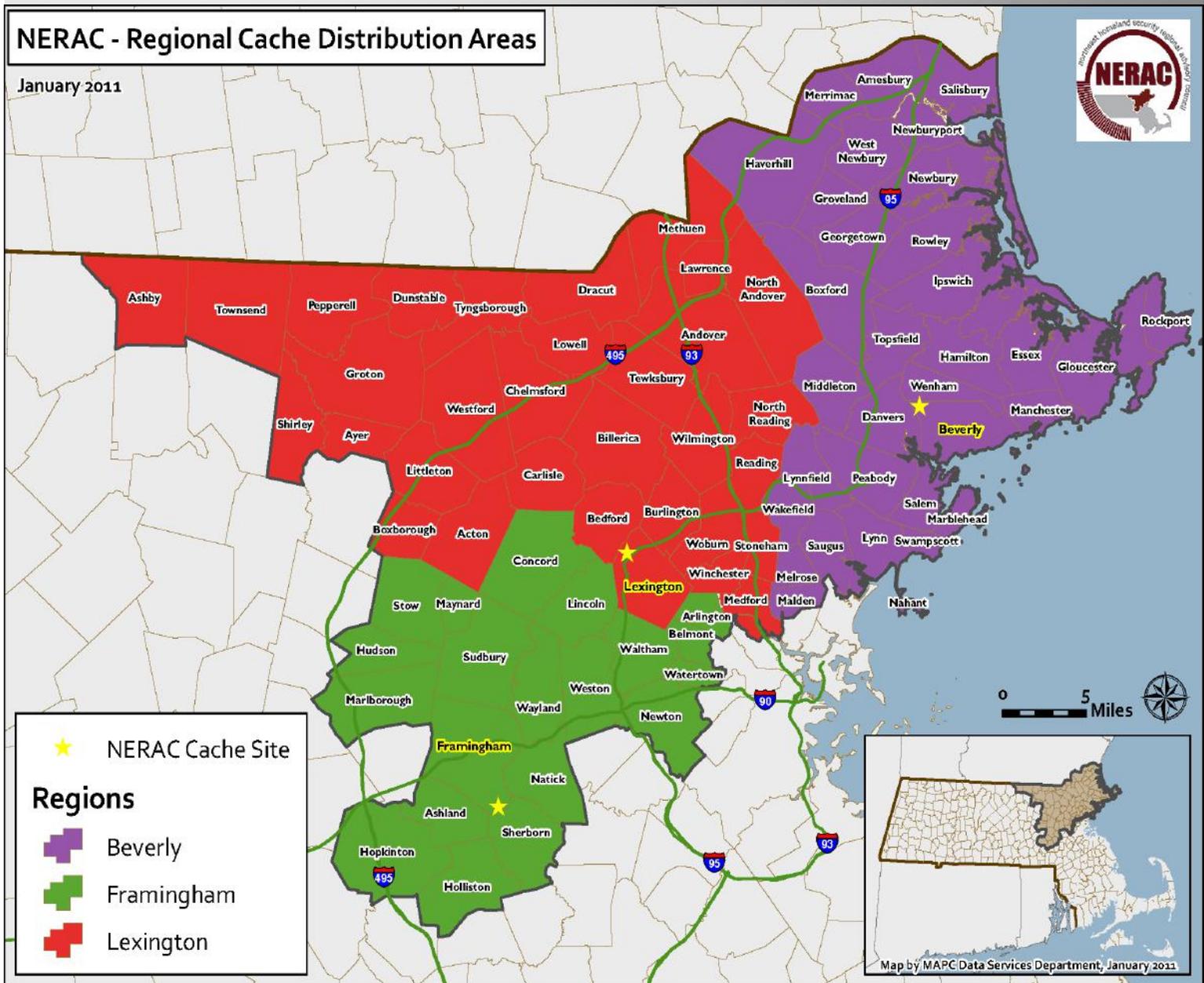


Strategy developed by EOPSS. The regions receive funding from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security through EOPSS.

MAPC acts as the fiduciary for the Northeast, Southeast, Central and Western Homeland Security Councils, and also provides planning, facilitation, administrative support, and project management services to the Northeast region.

NERAC Cache Program

NERAC's Cache Program began in 2007. The Cache Sites are a valuable resource and contain hundreds of items available for use by first responders from NERAC communities. More information regarding equipment found at the NERAC Cache Sites can be found on www.NERAC.us under the NE85-Regional Resources tab.



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