



The Western Massachusetts Region Homeland Security Advisory Council (WRHSAC) is a seventeen member, volunteer Council charged by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security to administer and coordinate the State Homeland Security Grant for the four counties of Western Massachusetts: Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden.

Funded activities are regional in scope and build and enhance capabilities that enable the region to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from threats and hazards including domestic and foreign terrorist acts.

HOMELAND SECURITY INFORMATION FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS

www.wrhsac.org

www.facebook.com/WRHSAC

www.twitter.com/wrhsac

Spokesperson Training



In a difficult situation, the operational response will determine how a crisis is handled; however, a good spokesperson can make a significant difference in how the response is communicated to the press and public.

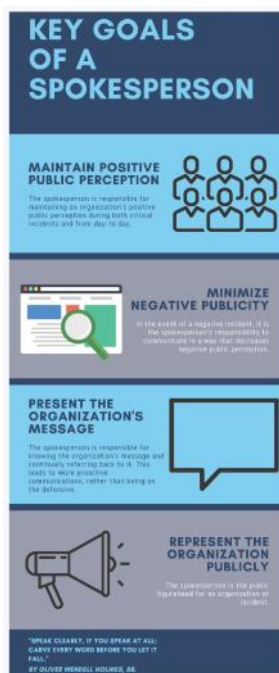
How to be an Effective Spokesperson

WRHSAC's new *How to Be an*

Effective Spokesperson online training presents the basics of what it means to be a good spokesperson, how to prepare messaging using the Message Map process, how to prepare for and respond to tough questions, and how to organize a press conference.

This training builds on the work begun in WRHSAC's Message Map Template and Training project.

The training delves into the primary traits of being a good spokesperson and assists students in incorporating these traits into messaging.



The training explores the key goals of an effective spokesperson and explains the important role a Public Information Officer/Spokesperson holds in an Incident Response Team.

The training is appropriate for all municipal officials, public information officers, and any department leader who may find themselves needing to convey important information to the public.

The training is online, free and can be found on [WRHSAC's website](http://www.wrhsac.org).

www.learning.wrhsac.org/courses

Health Coalitions PPE Cache Restocking



WRHSAC is assisting the Public Health Coalitions of Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden Counties to restock their PPE caches which were depleted in the first months of the COVID-19 response. The caches are utilized to support Boards of Health, Health Departments and others during public health emergency response. Restocked supplies include N95s, gloves, face shields, surgical masks and more. The Health Coalitions will manage the supplies to support continued COVID-19 needs and build caches for future needs.

First Responder Mental Health: Building Healthy Workplaces Phase II

WRHSAC will continue the work of its First Responder Mental Health project by offering two more virtual sessions of the *Building Health Workplaces: How to promote mental health in first responder organizations* leadership training in 2021 and build towards an in-person session in Spring 2022. The training covers key aspects and provides a tool kit of recommended practices and resources for leaders to support mental health in the workplace.

The Introductory course, which is a pre-requisite to the leadership session, is always available online at learning.wrhsac.org. The training is free and is beneficial for any first responder looking to gain a deeper understanding of mental health resiliency, trauma, and resources and skills to foster their own robust mental health.



Upcoming Debris Management Chainsaw Safety Training



WRHSAC will host three more series of the popular Debris Management Chainsaw Safety Training in 2021. Each series includes Basic Safety & Skills sessions and one Advanced Skills/After the Storm session. The increase in natural disasters and debris-causing storms means more first responders will likely find themselves in a situation where knowing how to safely handle a chainsaw can help to reopen closed roads, rescue trapped people and restore food and supply chain transportation.

Two series will be held in Berkshire County and one in Franklin County. We hope to offer the first session in Lanesborough in May. Scheduling is subject to change due to the pandemic.

A training announcement with full detail of dates and location will be issued soon once all the logistics are finalized. We look forward to connecting with you at an in-person training.

The Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council (WRHSAC) was established in 2004 by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security. WRHSAC is charged with administering the State Homeland Security Grant for western Massachusetts. Fifteen officials representing the first responder disciplines as identified by the Department of Homeland Security comprise the membership of WRHSAC. The disciplines and their representatives are:

Law Enforcement

- ◇ Chief Stephen Kozloski, Monson: skozloski@monson-ma.gov
- ◇ Chief Michael Wynn, Pittsfield: mwynn@pittsfieldch.com
- ◇ Chief John Paciorek, Deerfield: jpaciorek@police.deerfield.ma.us

Fire Services

- ◇ Chief John Dearborn, Longmeadow: jdearborn@longmeadow.org
- ◇ Chief Charles Burger, Great Barrington: cburger@townofgb.org
- ◇ Chief Jon Davine, Northampton: jdavine@northamptonma.gov

Municipal Government

- ◇ Carolyn Shores Ness, Deerfield: acornhillfarm@hotmail.com

Public Health

- ◇ Jeanne Galloway: jgalloway@townofwestspringfield.org

Emergency Medical Services

- ◇ Stephen Gaughan: gaughans@amherstma.gov

Public Safety Communications

- ◇ Nina Barszcz, Westfield: nina.barszcz@cityofwestfield.org

Correctional Services

- ◇ Sheriff Thomas Bowler, Berkshire County
- ◇ Lt. Col Thomas Grady, Proxy, Berkshire County
thomas.grady@sdb.state.ma.us

Regional Transit Authority

- ◇ Jamin Carroll, PVTA: carroll@pvtransit.com

Hospitals

- ◇ Monica Wynne, Baystate Health: Monica.Wynne@baystatehealth.org

Emergency Management

- ◇ Robert Hassett, Springfield: rhassett@springfieldcityhall.com

Department Of Public Works

- ◇ Chris Bouchard, South Hadley: cbouchard@southhadleyma.gov

K-12 Education

- ◇ Marty O'Shea, Longmeadow: moshea@longmeadow.k12.ma.us

Higher Education

- ◇ Vacant



Key Statewide Contacts

Mass. Emergency Management Agency (MEMA):
<http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/>
Phone: 508-820-2000

Mass. Department of Public Health (DPH):
www.mass.gov/dph/
Phone: (617) 983-6800

Mass. Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP):
www.mass.gov/dep/
Emergency Notification 888-304-1133

Massachusetts State Police (MSP):
<http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/msp/>
Regional Dispatch (Northampton) (413) 587-5700
Regional Dispatch (Shelburne Falls) (413) 625-8200
Regional Dispatch (Cheshire) (413) 743-4700
Regional Dispatch (Lee) (413) 243-0600

Mass 2-1-1:
<http://www.mass211help.org/>

Serving the Western Massachusetts
counties of Berkshire, Franklin,
Hampshire and Hampden

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