



**HOMELAND SECURITY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**
NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY



END *of* YEAR REPORT 2023



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FROM the DIRECTOR

The Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management supports the mission of the New Hampshire Department of Safety through the effective delivery of prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts for all hazards across the state of New Hampshire.

Our division shows tireless commitment to our stakeholders in all 234 communities across the state. 2023 was certainly a challenge for every partner, from flooding, to power outages, NASCAR and the start of planning for the 2024 total solar eclipse.

As a dual role agency, HSEM serves as the primary contact to the United States Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management discipline for the State of New Hampshire.

Staffing levels continued to be a challenge in 2023; however, I am happy to report we filled all leadership staff positions as well as the Assistant and Deputy Director positions. Our recruitment and retention efforts remain strong as we attend events and career fairs to share our mission and vision and discuss opportunities with potential employees.

Another initiative completed during 2023 included a reorganization that we believe allows us to provide the best possible customer service to all our stakeholders. Additionally, we have started to work on adopting a strategic mindset, and we not only develop plans for disasters but assist with the development of strategy to help us prevent the impact. Our efforts are built around our four pillars of teamwork, equity, readiness and customer service.

Weather-related events continue to be a large threat to the state. During March, a significant snowstorm resulted in a multi-day activation of the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). In late April/early May, we activated the SEOC for flooding. Then during July, many communities experienced severe flooding that led to a major disaster declaration in seven counties.

We look forward to this continued journey over the next 12 months as we strive to form better partnerships across the state.

Please be safe each day and help us to continue to grow!



Robert M. Buxton
Director



Director Robert M. Buxton



Appointed by Governor Christopher T. Sununu and Confirmed by Executive Council on August 17, 2022.

Director Buxton joined state government following three decades in municipal fire service. He served as Chief of the Hudson Fire Department and as the Emergency Management Director for the Town of Hudson from 2013 to 2022.

Buxton has a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of New Hampshire, as well as a Bachelor of Science in Fire Science Administration from Salem State College. He is also a graduate of the Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy in Maryland.

OUR DIVISION

HSEM Management Team



Assistant Director Megan Hoskins is sworn in.



Story time with Director Buxton at Chester Academy.



Richard Cloutier recognized for 10 years of state service.



Deputy Director Kelly Brudniak recognized for 25 years of State service.

Administration

- Robert M. Buxton**, Director
- Megan Hoskins**, Assistant Director
- Kelly Brudniak**, Deputy Director
- Vanessa Palange**, Community Outreach Coordinator / Public Information

Community Services Section

- Deborah Yeager**, Section Chief
- Neil Cantin**, Assistant Chief
- Katherine Partington**, Assistant Chief of School Readiness

Business and Finance Administration Office

- Matthew Hotchkiss**, Business and Finance Administrator
- Shyloh Casey**, Assistant Chief of Business and Finance
- Robert Keller**, Assistant Chief of EMPG

Community Liaisons and Radiological Preparedness Section

- David Vaillancourt**, Section Chief
- Gregory Kaylor**, Assistant Chief / Radiological Program Officer
- Elizabeth Gilboy**, Assistant Chief

Information and Analysis Center

- Marilynn Burkowski**, Deputy Director

Training, Exercise and Development Section

- Robert Christensen**, Section Chief
- Richard Cloutier**, Assistant Chief

Mitigation and Recovery Section

- Austin Brown**, Section Chief
- Danielle Duggins**, Assistant Chief of Recovery
- Dena Norman**, Assistant Chief of Mitigation

Mission

To support the mission of the New Hampshire Department of Safety through the effective delivery of prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts for all hazards across the state of New Hampshire.

Vision

Create a culture of high touch customer service in the area of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Creating a self-sustaining environment through the utilization of efficient mentoring, planning, teamwork, technology.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Community Services Section connects HSEM and New Hampshire stakeholders to assist with protection, preparedness, response and recovery. Community Services includes:

- Stakeholder Liaisons
- School Readiness
- Planning and Operations

There are 18 stakeholder liaisons who are trained in HSEM programmatic areas. They consist of teams of two to three people and their assigned communities are divided geographically. They also serve as liaisons for other State agencies that have a role in emergency management. Their primary responsibility



Megan Hoskins, Tayla Jacques, Debra Yeager and Richard Cloutier working through the scenario at Granite Bay Tabletop Exercise.

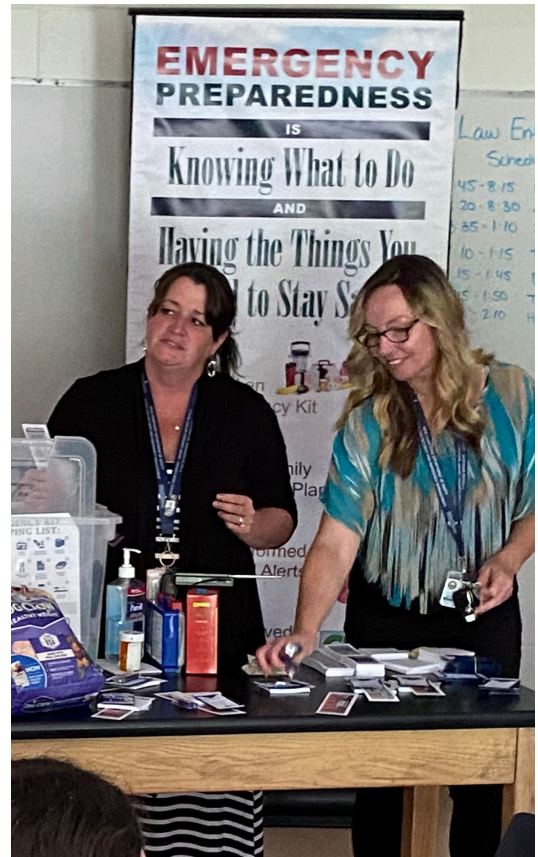
is to provide excellent customer service to all of HSEM's stakeholders and promote capability and capacity building for our customers.

The Planning Section works on State plans and projects, including the State Emergency Operations Plan.

Operations is responsible for the readiness and function of the State Emergency Operations Center and associated workspaces.

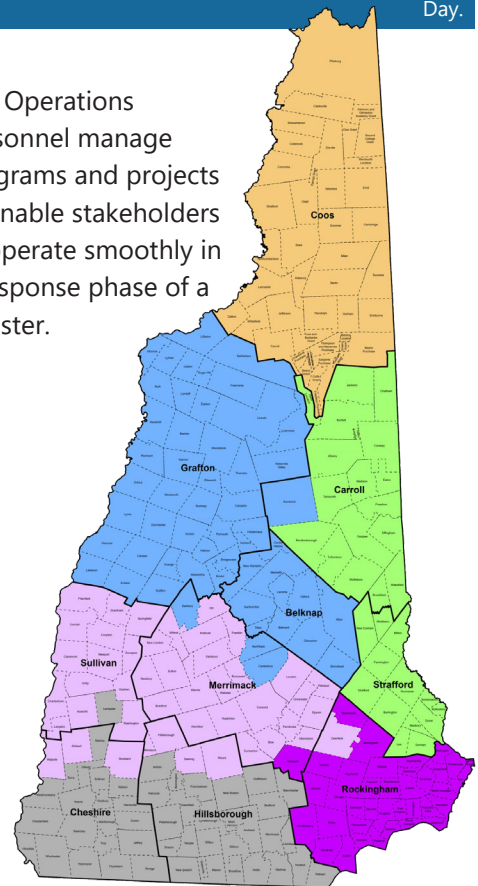


Stakeholder Liaison Kevin Partington and Assistant Chief Katherine Partington guide the Mascoma High School Tabletop Exercise.



Stakeholder Liaison Jill Piwoski and Senior Field Representative Candi Tibbetts engage with students at the Somersworth Middle School Law Enforcement Day.

The Operations personnel manage programs and projects to enable stakeholders to operate smoothly in a response phase of a disaster.



HSEM Stakeholder Liaison Map

SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM

The School Readiness Program is responsible for working with public and non-public K-12 schools to provide assistance reviewing their site-specific emergency operations plans, facilitating school-based trainings and exercises, conducting physical security assessments, and coordinating the New Hampshire School Safety Preparedness Task Force. Together these measures combined with industry best practices ensure New Hampshire schools are prepared for school-based emergencies.

2023

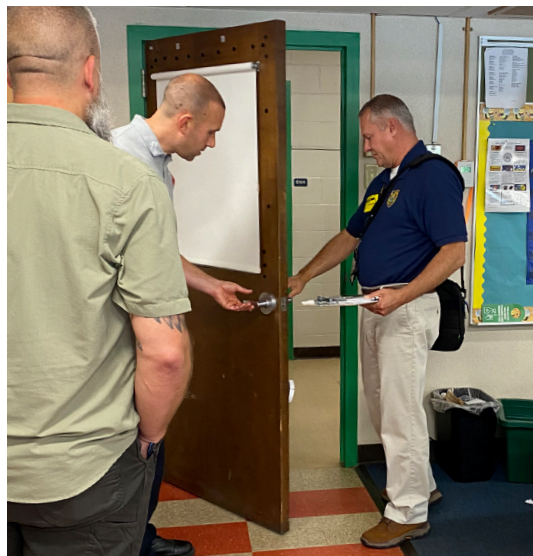
THE SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM CONDUCTED **151** SCHOOL SECURITY ASSESSMENTS

The program was established in 2013 under former Governor Maggie Hassan after the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut and began conducting physical security assessments at schools in 2014.

The program provides the following services:

- Technical assistance in the development, implementation, and review of school emergency operations plans, upon request.
- Voluntary physical security assessments.
- Training and exercises that focus on school-based incidents.

School district-operated preschools also re-



Stakeholder Liaison Scott Lambertson conducts a physical security assessment.



Stakeholder Liaison Dean Jore works with a teacher at a tabletop exercise.

ceive services.

The School Readiness Program and the New Hampshire Information and Analysis Center have staff members that have achieved Master Trainer certification through the Department of Homeland Security, National Threat Evaluation and Reporting Office. The mission of the Threat Evaluation and Reporting Overview (TERO) training is to promote the vital information to

schools, businesses, organizations, and the community through various outlets.

School Security Assessments

The Program looks at the physical building and grounds and makes observations and recommendations based on three physical security capabilities:

- Surveillance
- Access Control
- Emergency Alerting

These three physical security capabilities can be used to effectively increase physical security at schools. All three capabilities are most effective when they are employed together as they form the three-pronged response to a school's security profile.

School Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs)

The program is responsible for review of school EOPs, upon request. Liaisons discuss the EOPs during the physical security assessment with schools. Additionally, liaisons provide technical assistance virtually through meetings or email correspondence, upon request from a school. The program also offers an EOP Checklist and an EOP Template for school's to use as a resource and guide to assist them in developing their Emergency Operations Plan.

2023
First Responder
Symposium!!!

ST. JOSEPH
HOSPITAL
A Member of Covenant Health

November 9, 2023



Katherine Partington, Assistant Chief of the School Readiness Program presented at the First Responder Symposium at St. Joseph's hospital on November 9, 2023.

School Trainings & Exercises

The liaisons work with a team to provide customized training and exercises to fit that school's or district's specific needs. Most commonly, schools are prepared to participate in either a seminar, workshop, or tabletop exercise. These types of exercises are the least expensive and require fewer resources for planning. Discussion-based exercises are a great way for schools to familiarize themselves with their EOPs without deploying actual resources like an operations-based exercise would. There are many benefits to the community when conducting school-based trainings and exercises.

2023

37 EXERCISES WERE CONDUCTED

24 ACTIVE THREAT

4 REUNIFICATION

9 OTHER WORKSHOPS (ICS, EVACUATION, RESPONSE ACTIONS)

SCHOOL SAFETY PREPAREDNESS TASK FORCE



The School Safety Preparedness Task Force was established by Governor Chris Sununu in March 2018. The Task Force was composed of 16 members who represented stakeholders at the state and local level. The Task Force presented 59 recommendations organized into seven topic areas that were most critical to the safety and security of New Hampshire's schools while promoting the schools' primary edu-

cation mission. The seven topic areas are: legislation, mental health, planning, training, exercises, communication, and facilities.

A full-time school task force coordinator oversees the progression of the recommendations established by the Task Force, to monitor and track legislation related to school safety, and to conduct research of safety and preparedness measures as they pertain to schools.

To craft recommendations for schools and communities alike,

the Task Force evaluates new initiatives and hands them to selected leads in order to move forward with the recommendations.

The New Hampshire School Safety Resource Center, a central repository for all of the resources available to New Hampshire schools, was created due to recommendation 49 and announced in 2019. Information on the site includes resources for mental health, planning, training and exercises, communica-

2023 AVERAGE # OF SCHOOL SAFETY RESOURCE CENTER READS PER MONTH **5,260**

tions, facility upgrades and additional links to other agencies. There was an average of 5,260 reads per month in the last 12 months.



Assistant Chief of the School Readiness Program Katherine Partington attended the Inaugural Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) summit in Washington, D.C. along with Lt. Joseph Villers and Scott Petrin from the NHIC.

RADIOLOGICAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) Section supports the 17 communities within the Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) as well as 10 supporting communities and multiple state agencies involved in the specialized planning, response, and recovery from an incident at the Seabrook Station Nuclear power plant. The section consists of a chief, an assistant chief, two planners, one full-time stakeholder liaison, and a part-time stakeholder liaison.

During an activation of the State Emergency Operations Center, the REP staff assist in staffing the stakeholder liaison desk to establish and maintain communications with New



begin to prepare for the Fiscal Year 2024 Federally Evaluated Exercise Cycle. The exercise cycle requires successful completion of two workshops, a tabletop exercise and three combined functional exercises in which the final exercise is evaluated. The first workshop and tabletop were held on July 26 and September 20 and

required our partners at the local, state, and federal level to review and discuss their responses to prepare for the upcoming Combined Functional Exercises. The second workshop held on December 5 required the State to focus on ingestion impacts from a radiological release in preparation for an evaluated Ingestion Exercise Cycle in 2026.

On October 18, more than 500 federal, state, and local partners joined HSEM to participate in the first Combined Functional Exercise for the Seabrook Station Graded Exercise Cycle. Participants included DPHS staff, personnel from the 17 New Hampshire EPZ communities and the three host communities, as well as staff from multiple state agencies, making it the largest REP exercise in the U.S. The exercise required more than six months of planning done by the Radiological Emergency Preparedness Section. The second Combined Functional Exercise was on February 7, 2024, and the graded exercise was April 7, 2024. FEMA evaluates player actions against current response plans and capabilities for a nuclear power plant-related incident and compliance with the evaluation criteria set forth under the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's guidelines. FEMA sent 71 evaluators who composed and filed reports covering 361 criteria at 38 locations. The reports will be reviewed, analyzed, and compiled into a comprehensive report that will be made available in draft form to the state and local governments within 30 days of this exercise.



Assistant Chief Elizabeth Gilboy guides participants through the scenario during CFE1 exercise.

Hampshire communities, provide situational awareness, and ensure resource requests are addressed. Team members also staff the Planning Section and support Operations. In a REP event the stakeholder liaisons work from the Incident Field Office located in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Over the last 12 months, the REP section has taken significant steps in improving the State of New Hampshire's REP program. The significant improvements that have been implemented include: Updating the Traffic Management Manual, rewriting job aids for all local and host reception center positions, updating reception center procedures, and developing standard training modules for all radiological equipment.

Toward the end of this year, the REP Section



Section Chief Dave Vaillancourt discusses REP plans with local EPZ Emergency Management Directors during CFE1.

RIMC - RADIOLOGICAL INSTRUMENTATION MAINTENANCE & CALIBRATION



Radiological Technician Bill Small giving a tour of the RIMC office.

HSEM's Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) Section supports the Radiological Instrumentation Maintenance and Calibration Facility (RIMC). This facility is where all state-owned radiological instruments are maintained and distributed to local first responders throughout the State of New Hampshire, with a focus on communities located in the Seabrook Station Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ). The equipment and potassium iodide (KI) is rotated between the

27,132 KI DOSES IN THE FIELD
12,694 PIECES OF RAD EQUIPMENT

RIMC shop and the Emergency Management Director's to ensure the equipment is functioning and the KI is within expiration guidelines. The RIMC facility is licensed through the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) for possession of radiological material used for the calibration of the radiological instruments that are serviced and maintained. Due to the activity of the radiological material, the RIMC facility is a secured facility as required by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

RIMC also produce 36 REP kits and 6,365 total pieces of RAD equipment for the State of Massachusetts.


2023 RIMC PRODUCED:

69 REP KITS	22 HAZMAT KITS
9 LAW ENFORCEMENT KITS	6 TRAINING KITS

Ready the Prepared Puppy is always ready for an emergency! New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management's mascot always has his bright orange emergency kit on his back, and a smile on his face. Ready wants kids everywhere to know that they can help their families be ready for emergencies, too.

2023 ReadyNH MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

READY BAGS	3,022
READY CRAYONS	1,083
READY ACTIVITY BOOKS	3,218
READY STICKERS	4,646
FLASHLIGHTS	4,537
SHOPPING KIT LISTS	5,260
EMERGENCY CONTACT CARDS	5,725
FAMILY EMERGENCY PLANS	5,303
NH ALERTS BROCHURES	3,080
STICKY NOTES	3,719
NOTE PADS	3,036



ReadyNH.gov

In order to increase the preparedness of individuals and households in the State of New Hampshire, the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management created the ReadyNH campaign. New Hampshire's official planning and preparedness website ReadyNH.gov is part of the ReadyNH campaign, which reminds visitors and residents of New Hampshire to be prepared and stay safe!

Four steps you can take to be prepared include:

- Stay Informed
- Have a Plan
- Make a Kit
- Get Involved



TRAINING, EXERCISE and DEVELOPMENT

The HSEM Training, Exercise, and Development Section (T.E.D.) was extremely active in 2023 coordinating trainings and facilitating and assisting with exercises throughout the state. In 2023, the section also began to focus on development of both HSEM staff as



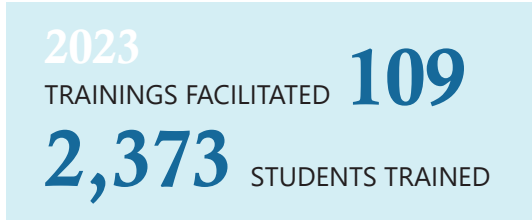
Bob Christensen and Tayla Jacques prepare the “bad actor” at Littleton Regional Hospital full-scale exercise.

well as the broader emergency management community.

The section expanded its Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshops (IPPW) to establish a better relationship with partners around the State to truly be an “all hazards, all New Hampshire” program.

Training

In 2023, HSEM helped coordinate or facilitate 109 trainings in the State for 2,373 students. These classes included Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE), Public Information Officer Basics, Understanding Targeted Cyber Attacks, ICS trainings, Medical Countermeasures: Points of Dispensing (POD), Planning and Response, Unmanned Aircraft Systems,



Program Development, and others. In addition, the G0191 – Emergency Operations Center/Incident Command System Interface and the G0402 – National Incident Management System Overview for Senior Officials (Executives, Elected, & Appointed) were relaunched, and for the first time in many years, the classes are being taught by HSEM instructors.

These trainings help increase New Hampshire’s capacity to prepare for and respond to threats and haz-

ards across a broad range of categories including cybersecurity, community resilience, planning, operational coordination, and public information and warning.

In 2023, 361 students from New Hampshire were able to utilize programs from the National Fire Academy, Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, Maryland, and the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium, including the Center for Domestic Preparedness in Anniston, Alabama. Most of these

programs are tuition free, and travel and lodging are either paid for or reimbursed.

Exercises

In 2023, our agency held 15 HSEM-facilitated exercises with approximately 883 participants

throughout the state to help test and validate plans. By working with our stakeholders, our team was able to take these partners through planning, execution, and the after-action steps of all types of exercises from seminars all the way up to four full-scale exercises



State Training Officer Greg Gabrielli leads CRASE training.



HSEM team members from several sections come together for an all-hands-on-deck full-scale exercise at Littleton Regional Hospital.



(FSE) including Laconia, Gilford, Meredith, and Littleton. These exercises included 31 different agencies and took 111 planning meetings to happen. The section issues a quarterly exercise newsletter highlighting work and upcoming events.

HSEM also has helped other stakeholders and partners, including the New Hampshire National Guard, Maine Emergency Management Agency, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, and New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, in eight other exercises.



Littleton police officers breach a training door during the Littleton Hospital full-scale exercise.

15 2023
HSEM FACILITATED EXERCISES **883** PARTICIPANTS

FAITH BASED COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS (FBCO)

This past year, the Training, Exercises and Development (T.E.D.) Section continued the efforts of HSEM, of the past five-plus years equipping Faith Based Community Organizations (FBCO) with emergency preparedness and active threat planning, training, and exercise skills while working alongside local first responders.

In 2023, the section delivered three-hour emergency preparedness seminars (topics consisting of whole community emergency preparedness, building, and validating emergency operations plans (EOP), and active threat response); three-hour tabletop

teaching the U.S. Department of Homeland Security-sponsored MGT-405 class Mobilizing Faith Based Community Organizations in Preparing for Disaster. This class also was presented in Concord on April 29 and had a good mixture of first responders, health organizations and FBCO participants. He also presented on successes and lessons learned from NH's FBCO efforts at the National Preparedness Symposium at the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Other areas of impact for HSEM's T.E.D. Section include working along with the efforts of New Hampshire's Congressional Delegation bringing the Non-Profit Security Grants to the State and every other state in the U.S. This grant has provided grant reimbursements for houses of worship and community-assistance programs where facility hardening/security measures were needed.



Assistant Chief Richard Cloutier guides a tabletop exercise for FBCO in Derry.

exercises and general consulting to local first responders in working with FBCOs. Communities where these FBCO-focused trainings and exercises took place this year include Concord, Wilmot, Loudon, East Derry, Bedford, Manchester, New Hampton, Alton, and Conway.

T.E.D. Chief Robert Christensen, continued to bring much of what New Hampshire is doing with FBCOs to the national stage as an instructor with the Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium,

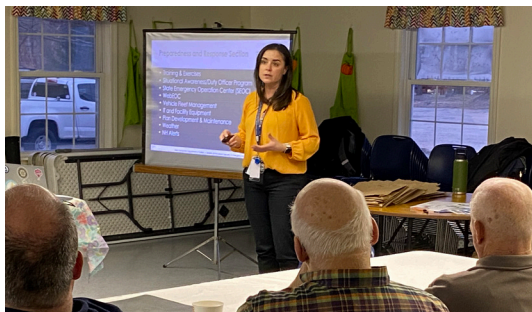


Stakeholder Liaison James Leach at an FBCO tabletop exercise in Derry.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH OFFICE

The Community Outreach Office (COO) expands its networks by working hand-in-hand with agencies, organizations, and communities across New Hampshire.

From a Space Force Tour to the Colebrook Kiwanis Club, HSEM learns and links with organizations outside of itself, for increasing its breadth of knowledge, for exploring other



Community Outreach Coordinator Vanessa Palange presents at the Hooksett Lions Club.

perspectives, and for securing new and enduring partnerships.

The more organizations like HSEM can connect with their surrounding communities, the more effective they become during emergencies. The ability of the public to recognize authority can ease anxieties and smooth over processes when events are stressful. Con-



Program Assistant Abby Zarakovich and Program Specialist Gail Wolek at a Ready the Prepared Puppy school visit.

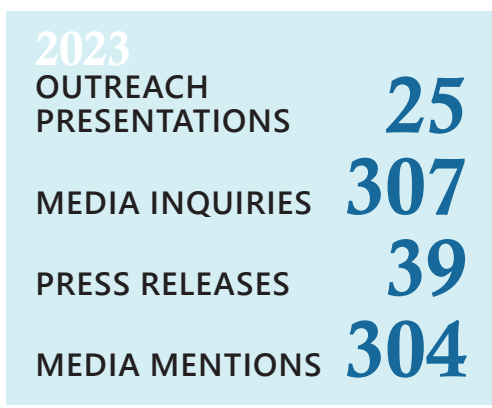
necting with community members in places like Taylor Community or at events such as the Best Buddies Friendship Walk is especially important when people may have limited

access to information. Bringing people together through events strengthens teamwork, provides equity in information distribution, and teaches readiness and collaboration with New Hampshire's residents and visitors. In its public information capacity, the



Gail Wolek, Sonya Bunton and Kate Faulhaber at Discover WILD NH Day

office is responsible for managing public information efforts before, during, and after emergencies requiring a state-level and coordinated response. The COO is available



- NH.HSEM
- NH_HSEM
- NH_HSEM
- NH-HSEM
- NH HSEM

to assist local public information efforts through the support of the State's Joint Information Center. The office also manages social media and public education campaigns.



Vanessa Palange is interviewed by a WMUR reporter outside of the Incident Planing and Operations Center.

STATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) serves as the central point of coordination for state-level emergency management and response activities. The SEOC is managed by HSEM as the lead agency for Emergency Support Function (ESF) 5. The Director of HSEM (or designee) determines the appropriate activation level for the SEOC. The SEOC may be activated to coordinate state-level response to an emergency or in response to a large-scale planned event where state resources must be mobilized to ensure health and safety. The SEOC coordinates with the Governor's Office, FEMA Region 1, and local emergency operations centers. The SEOC is located at the Incident Planning and Operations Center (IPOC) in Concord, New Hampshire. HSEM's Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) identifies alternate locations

for the SEOC should the primary location become inoperable.

HSEM partially activated the SEOC multiple times during 2023. During these activations,

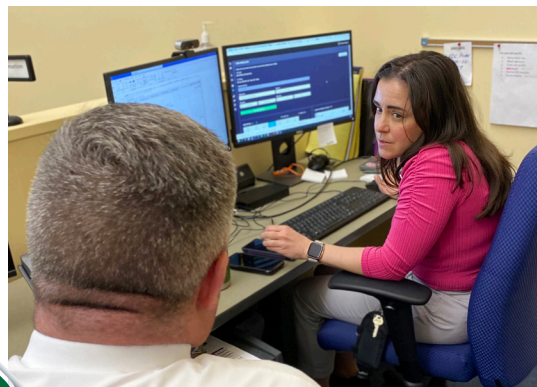


HSEM staff jumps into action during a weather event in the SEOC.

the agency took time to train new employees in the different roles of the SEOC as well as what might happen in real-life events and which Emergency Support Functions might be needed for those events.



Assistant Chief of Recovery Danielle Duggins monitors the situation during an SEOC activation.



PIO Vanessa Palange updates Director Robert Buxton during an SEOC activation.

2023

15 SEOC ACTIVATIONS

SCHEDULED EVENTS:

- CFE 1
- Bow Power Plant Protest
- Pease Thunder Over NH Airshow
- NH Motor Speedway NASCAR Race

INCIDENTS:

- Hurricane Lee
- 4 Rain / Flooding Events
- 5 Winter Weather Events
- NH Hospital Shooting

STEADY STATE

ENHANCED MONITORING

PARTIAL

FULL

The SEOC has designated four emergency levels that increase in intensity, ranging from day-to-day activities associated with Steady State status to catastrophic emergency effects associated with a Full Activation. Emergency designation levels are critical to providing a consistent understanding for incident severity and associated response actions.

SEE Something, SAY Something

If you See Something, Say Something®. That is the tagline of a national campaign that raises public awareness of the indicators of terrorism and terrorism-related crime, as well as the importance of reporting suspicious activity to state and local law enforcement.

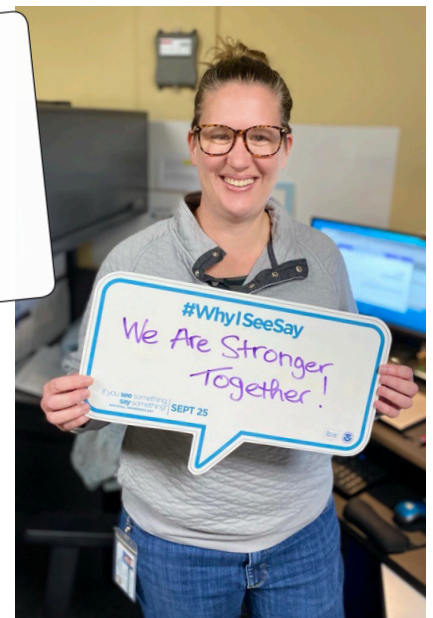
Whether you are on your way to work, walking in your neighborhood, or out in your community, remember: We all play a role in keeping our communities safe. Remember to stay vigilant and say something when you see signs of suspicious activity.

NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management provides See Something, Say Something® resources and materials at no cost to New Hampshire schools, businesses, organizations, nonprofits, and state agencies



through a Homeland Security grant.

See Something, Say Something materials are available online at NH.gov/HSEM.



EMPG Coordinator Sheila Dupre shares #WhyISeeSay.

2023 SEE/SAY MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

1,120 POSTERS

817 WINDOW CLINGS

2,293 BROCHURES

152 LANYARDS

2,960 CARD HOLDERS

1,884 EYEGLASS CASES

NH ALERTS

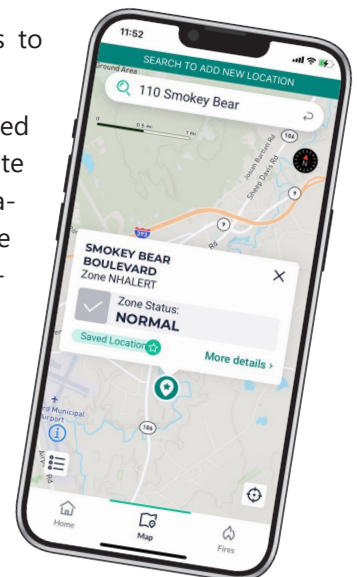
NH Alerts is a mass emergency notification tool. The Department of Safety uses NH Alerts to provide residents and visitors with targeted public safety notices during emergencies through text messaging, email, smartphone app notifications, and telephone calling.

NH Alerts delivers free emergency, community, and missing person notices generated by authorized officials at the State level. Through the Genasys Protect app the state also can deliver free weather warnings from the National Weather Service to users within the direct path of severe weather. Additionally, State of NH agencies utilize NH Alerts



to send important notifications to state employees.

Individuals who have not signed up yet or would like to update their information can go to ReadyNH.gov to enroll in the free NH Alerts emergency notification system. In addition, individuals are encouraged to download the free Genasys Protect smartphone app.





Assistant Chief Neil Cantin conducts a WebEOC training in the SEOC.

HSEM maintains an online crisis-disaster management system, WebEOC, to manage large and small-scale events, disasters, and support, or increase public safety information sharing — providing real-time situational awareness.

One of the primary objectives is to provide incident commanders, community leaders, and command-level personnel, a common operating picture of public safety operations, sensitive in-

formation and infrastructure problems, and/or disruptions upon which to make informed, effective decisions in response, recovery, and mitigation efforts.

WebEOC is also used as a gateway to share information between the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) and federal, state, and local public safety entities, as well as critical infrastructure partners.



INFORMATION and ANALYSIS CENTER

The New Hampshire Information and Analysis Center (NHIAC) is a cooperative effort under the New Hampshire Department of Safety between the New Hampshire State Police and New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management. The NHIAC was established as an all-crimes/all-hazards, counter-terrorism information and analysis center providing strategic and tactical information directed at the most serious threats to the State of New Hampshire and its people. The center monitors information from a variety of open and classified sources, analyzes that information, and provides an information product that will serve public safety and private sector interests whose mission it is to serve the homeland security, public



safety, and emergency management needs of their constituents and the State of New Hampshire. The center assists in the development and use of meaningful, real-time metrics in the effective and efficient deployment of public safety resources.

The NHIAC is a resource to help New Hampshire residents do their part in keeping New Hampshire safe. People may contact the NHIAC when they observe or learn of suspicious behavior that may arouse their concern. Information shared with the NHIAC will be evaluated and referrals will be made to the appropriate agencies.



PUBLIC ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM



The Public Assistance (PA) Grant Program provides supplemental federal assistance to states and local communities to return an area impacted by disaster to its pre-disaster conditions and function. PA supports initiatives that protect against immediate threats to life, public safety, and property, the removal of debris as a result of a disaster, the restoration – through repair or replacement



Director Robert Buxton and Senator Jeanne Shaheen survey flood damages in Alton.



Mitigation and Recovery Chief Austin Brown takes measurements during a PDA in Alton.

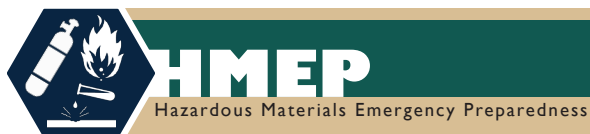
– of disaster-damaged structures and facilities, as well as COVID programs since April 2020. Eligible applicants in New Hampshire include state agencies, local governments, and certain private nonprofit (PNP) organizations. The program provides emergency assistance to save lives and protect property, and assists with permanently restoring community infrastructure affected by a federally declared incident.

In regards to the series of July flooding events,

Public Assistance completed preliminary damage assessments (PDAs). FEMA then validated the costs and a request for a federal disaster declaration was made on September 14, 2023. President Biden granted the disaster request.

PA ACTIVELY
MANAGED **11** OPEN
DISASTERS IN 2023

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



HMEP Grant objectives include:

- Developing and enhancing hazmat emergency response plans (ERPs).
- Determining flow patterns of hazardous materials.
- Conducting hazard analysis.
- Conducting emergency response drills and exercises of Hazmat ERPs.
- Assessing local response capabilities.

The purpose of the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant Program is to increase state and local effectiveness in safely and efficiently handling hazardous materials accidents and incidents; enhance implementation of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA); and encourage a comprehensive approach to emergency planning and training by incorporating the unique challenges of responses to transportation situations. The HMEP Grant Program is intended to provide financial and technical assistance, as well as national direction and guidance to enhance state, territorial, tribal, and local hazardous materials emergency planning and training. The program distributes fees collected from shippers and carriers of hazardous materials to emergency responders for Hazardous Material (Hazmat) training and to Local Emergency Planning

Committees (LEPCs) for Hazmat planning and training.

9 2023 HMEP PROJECTS TOTAL DOLLAR VALUE **\$104,190⁹³**

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT

The Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Program supports building and maintaining a comprehensive, all-hazards emergency preparedness system. This includes assisting state and local governments and other eligible agencies to build and sustain the core capabilities outlined in the National Preparedness Goal (NPG). New Hampshire's EMPG Program focuses on planning, organization/administration (project-driven), equipment, and maintenance/sustainment.



2023 EMPG AWARDS
TOTAL AWARDS 45
TOTAL VALUE \$948,388

New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management applies to FEMA for EMPG Program funds on behalf of the State of New Hampshire and its local emergency management agencies, as the eligible entity.

Title VI of the Stafford Act authorizes FEMA to make grants for the purpose of providing a system of emergency preparedness for the protection of life and property from hazards in the United States. The Act puts responsibility for emergency preparedness jointly in the federal government, in partnership with the states and their political subdivisions. Through the EMPG Program, the federal government provides direction, coordina-

2023 EMPG PRIORITIES

LEOP & COOP Plans and Updates . . .	26	Projects
EOC Equipment and Enhancements . . .	8	Projects
Electronic Message Boards	2	Projects
EOC and Shelter Generators	7	Projects
Communications Equipment.	2	Projects

tion, guidance, and necessary assistance to New Hampshire, as authorized by the Act, so that a comprehensive emergency preparedness system exists for all hazards.

Additionally, there were two congressionally directed spending, 2023 EMPG Emergency Operations Center (EOC) awards. The local communities of Manchester and Walpole were awarded a combined total of \$1,396,791 for EOC enhancements.



Manchester and Walpole were awarded a combined total of **\$1,396,791** for EOC enhancements.

EOC Congressional Directed Spending Project for the Town of Walpole.

HAZARD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE



Dan Hole River Dam inspection.



The Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) program provides grants to state and local governments to

implement long-term hazard mitigation measures prior to and following a major Presidential Disaster Declaration. The purpose of HMA is to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural hazards and enable mitigation to be completed. The program's objectives are:

- To prevent future loss of life and property due to natural hazards.
- To implement state or local hazard mitigation planning.
- To enable mitigation measures to be implemented to historically impacted areas.
- To provide funding for previously identified mitigation measures.

Funding Programs:

- Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)
- Legislatively Directed Pre-Disaster Mitigation (LPDM)
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
- High Hazard Potential Dam (HHPD) Grant Program

2023

21 ACTIVE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

275 SUB-RECIPIENTS

HMA AWARDS

\$2,548,249⁷⁸

DISASTER DECLARATIONS

The State of New Hampshire continues to manage the recovery efforts from disasters, straining state, and local resources, and continue efforts toward close out. The following disasters remained open or occurred in 2023:

DR 4329 July 1, 2017-July 2, 2017, severe storm and flooding in Coos and Grafton counties.

DR 4355 October 29, 2017-November 1, 2017, severe storm and flooding in Belknap, Carroll, Coos, Grafton, Merrimack, and Sullivan counties.

DR 4370 March 2, 2018-March 8, 2018, coastal storm and flooding in Rockingham County.

DR 4457 July 11, 2019-July 12, 2019, severe storm and flooding in Grafton County.

DR 4516 January 20, 2020-May 11, 2023, COVID-19 statewide.

DR 4622 July 17, 2021-July 19, 2021, severe storm and flooding in Cheshire County.

DR 4624 July 29, 2021-August 2, 2021, severe storm and flooding in Cheshire and Sullivan counties.

DR 4693 December 22, 2022-December 25, 2022, severe storm and flooding in Belknap, Carroll, Coos, and Grafton counties.

DR 4740 July 9, 2023-July 17, 2023, severe storm and flooding in Belknap, Carroll, Coos, Cheshire, Grafton, Rockingham, and Sullivan counties.

DR 4761 December 17-December 21, 2023, severe storm and flooding in Carroll, Coos, and Grafton counties.



Flood damage in the Stoddard/Alstead area.

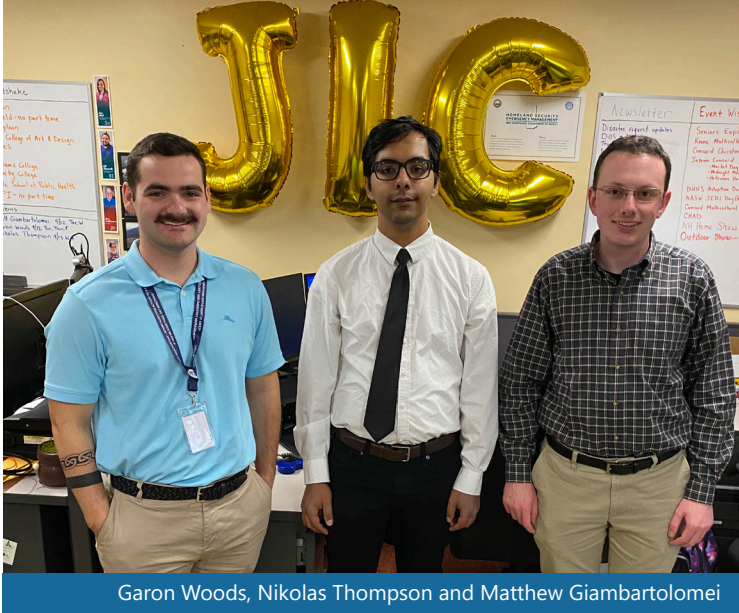
HSEM INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Interns are expected to employ their skills and abilities to contribute to the mission of HSEM. Internships provide exposure to industry professionals and promote career development. Specifically, interns may assist in developing and publicizing a variety of ongoing and future media campaigns, writing and editing press releases, preparing talking points, monitoring social media and preparing social media messages, preparing and editing web materials, monitoring legislative interests and projects, assisting in research and data development, assisting with field exercises, and other projects as needed. Interns also may assist with internal agency functions and Emergency Operations Center daily operations such as inventory management, development of procedures and user guides, maintenance of disaster management software, database coordination, and continuity of operations plan.

Other opportunities include participation in a drill or exercise, a community outreach event, a

grant-specific meeting or visit, a planning activity, and a physical security assessment at a school.

In 2023, HSEM hosted 12 interns. Because of the agency's many partnerships across the state, in addition to the opportunities at HSEM, interns also rode along with Fish and Game, took a tour of the Men's Prison and shadowed a 911 call taker.



Garon Woods, Nikolas Thompson and Matthew Giambartolomei



Katie Reid and Kaitlyn Scanlan



Kate Faulhaber and Madison Constabile helping at a Plymouth State University Job Fair.



Interns Sam Zarakovich, Aicha Hamcha, Katie Reid (Ready) and Nate Lemire at the Pittsfield Balloon Festival.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



The HSEM team gets a DOT Mechanical Services tour.



Intern Nate Lemire gave a private tour of Massachusetts Maritime Academy.



HSEM met with officials from Pittsburg Fire & Rescue to prepare for the 2024 solar eclipse.



A tour of the New Boston Space Force Base.

HSEM FUN COMMITTEE

Volunteers on the Fun Committee enjoy coordinating HSEM's charitable activities along with encouraging employees to join in fun activities. The State Employees' Association's Operation Santa Claus is the main benefactor of the Fun Committee's fundraising efforts. In 2023, HSEM sponsored 18 children, providing gifts, toys, and clothing to disadvantaged children in New Hampshire. HSEM raised \$1,617 through raffle ticket sales and another \$802 during the holiday dessert auction.



Chef Virginia Clasby grilling during the summer barbecue.

Other fundraising efforts included St. Patrick's Day Raffle, Flannel Shirt Tuesday, Cinco de Mayo Baskets Raffle, Cornhole Tournament, and a Halloween Count the Candy Contest.

HSEM employees also participated in the "Dear Warrior" campaign writing holiday cards for military members. Employees filled out dozens of holiday cards with personal messages for a soldier, Marine, airman, or sailor.

HSEM also joined the Department of Safety's efforts to sponsor a young girl with the Make-a-Wish foundation. Her wish was to walk with the help of a Trexo.

Much of the organized fun was centered around food including walking tacos for Cinco de Mayo, a summer barbecue, and a holiday luncheon.



Lynn Doyle serves up her famous cupcakes during our holiday luncheon.



Robert Buxton
Director

IAC
Marilynn
Burkowski

PIO
Vanessa
Palange

Kelly Brudniak
Deputy Director

Megan Hoskins
Assistant Director

CS
Assistant Chief
Neil Cantin

MITIGATION & RECOVERY
Chief Austin
Brown

BUSINESS & FINANCE
Chief Matthew
Hotchkiss

RADIOLOGICAL PREPAREDNESS
Chief David
Vaillancourt

TRAINING, EXERCISE & DEVELOPMENT
Chief Robert
Christensen

COMMUNITY SERVICES
Chief Deborah
Yeager

RECOVERY
Assistant Chief
Danielle Duggins

B & F
Assistant Chief
Shyloh Casey

REP
Assistant Chief
Gregory Kaylor

TED
Assistant Chief
Richard Cloutier

Stakeholder Liaisons
Assistant Chief

MITIGATION
Assistant Chief
Dena Norman

EMPG
Assistant Chief
Robert Keller

REP
Assistant Chief
Elizabeth Gilboy

SCHOOL READINESS
Assistant Chief
Katherine Partington



Empat**H**etic
Coll**A**borative
Respectful
Unifie**D**
Welcoming
Supp**O**rtive
Unde**R**standing
Teamwor**K**



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