

MEMORANDUM

To: Traffic Incident Management Group and Interested Parties

From: Miranda McGowan, Senior Transportation Planner

Date: September 27, 2011

RE: Meeting Notes from ME-NH Traffic Incident Management Group on September 16, 2011

Those in attendance included: Tony Attardo (South Portland FD); Chris Balentine (York FD); Elizabeth Barton (Maine EMA); Sheena Connolly (NHDOT-Traffic Management Center); Ralph Cresta (National Wrecker); Kevin Donovan (Maine State Police); John Duross (Saco FD); Gary Eaton (Kittery PD); David Feeney (Cumberland County EMA); Ruth Farnsworth (Wells PD); Tim Hamilton (Gray Dispatch Center); Brian Lawrence (FHWA); Laura McCarthy (NHDOT); Greg Stone (Maine Turnpike Authority); Sgt. James Urquhart (Maine State Police); Charles Szeniewski (York PD); Gary Wood (NH State Police)

Staff and Guests: Blake Baldwin (Video Creations); Lee Cote (Video Creations); Miranda McGowan (SMRPC); Tom Reinauer (SMRPC)

The meeting was held at the York Village Fire Department.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Blake and Lee from Video Creations are at the meeting today to get additional footage for the Operating Guidelines video.

2. Review of recent incidents and/or planned road closures

There was report of a car fire on September 9. There were multiple communication glitches, Gray Dispatch was unsure which frequency to use so they decided to use procedures used in the past. In the end, the car was not on fire but was overheated.

3. Operating Guidelines

Proposed communications changes: The Operating Guidelines subcommittee discussed the communications frequencies of the Operating Guidelines (pages 6-7). They have recommended that the primary frequency used for incidents occurring in York County will use State Police "Region 1" and incident occurring in Cumberland County will use State Police "Region 2." They realize that this will be a culture shock for many people and that it will take some time for these new procedures to become routine.

- Is it the expectation that just Scarborough will be the test community for the new frequencies? No, they are changing their frequencies to narrowbanding right now, so volunteered to test it out. Any community can participate. Saco expressed interest.
- We may be applying for a Homeland Security grant to help communities pay for the costs of adding "Region 1" and Region 2 to their radios. The grant applications should be coming out soon. It should be similar to the Con-Ops grant that we received. Is it possible to give money to those communities that have already done this? We are unsure at this time.

Update on training sessions: We have held training sessions in most of the communities along the turnpike. There will be a training session for towing and recovery companies next week. The Cumberland County group will be hosting training sessions in the next 6 months. We can always hold more training sessions if needed.

Training DVD Update: Lee, Blake, and crew did a great job filming on Monday. The filming took place on the turnpike near the Limerick Road overpass. They are working today to get additional footage for the video. There were several articles in the paper and the press coverage was good. It was suggested that we send out a press release and have a viewing party once the video is completed. The video should be completed by mid-October. We would like to know how many videos each town would like to have so that we can let Video Creations know how many copies to make. We would also like to include on the SMRPC website.

Southern Maine Medical Center (SMMC) Mass Casualty/Training Exercise: This event has been pushed to the spring. However, planning meetings are still happening and the focus of the event will be around a tour bus incident.

4. Agency/Department Reports

NH Turnpike: Summer traffic was heavy. There was an incident in Hampton that involved a tractor trailer and multiple cars. A helicopter was brought to the scene and it took 3 hours to clear the scene. The recent training helped. The Pease Air Show went well and there was less traffic this year than last year's event.

NHDOT Traffic Management Center: They are still dealing with roads closed due to Hurricane Irene. The TMC became a call center for the public during the hurricane and they were giving many people directions towards Maine but were unsure of contacts to give people for Maine. Discussion followed regarding the 511/211 systems for both States.

- Maine 511 – this is a website but does not connect with a live person.
- Maine 211 – Cannot be accessed outside of Maine and is not connected to the NH 211 system.
- Other suggestions included York County EMA and Google Earth.

Maine Turnpike: Construction season is winding down and they are getting ready for winter. The Maine Transportation Safety Coalition will be hosting a conference in Freeport on November 8-9 and Tom R, Kevin Donovan, and Tony Attardo will be presenting at the conference.

Maine State Police: There have been 5-6 crashes recently. There has been difficulty in Sabattus recently related to truck parking. Will Incident Management groups be started in other regions of Maine? We would like to but it will depend on the region.

5. Other Business

Tom wanted to let the group know that the York County Community Action Corporation (YCCAC) has an agreement with York County EMA to allow YCCAC to use their buses to help evacuate people during large incidents. They were recently called into service during the Amtrak Downeaster incident in North Berwick. People should contact York County EMA directly instead of YCCAC.

6. Next Meeting

November 18, 2011, 12:00pm – Wells Activity Center