

July 2007 Quarterly Report

I. General Information

Report Period: May 2007 to July 2007
Date Submitted: October 2007
State: MA
FEMA Region: One

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II. State Delegation Meetings/Teleconferences

Date: May 14, 2007 – Evacuation Workgroup Meeting
Outcome: Continued discussion to identify areas in evacuation planning in need of enhancement.

Date: May 15, 2007 – Steering Committee Meeting
Outcome: The Task Force Steering Committee, consisting of chairs from each of the 5 working groups (Evacuation, Sheltering, Communications, Personal Preparedness, and Identification / Registries) and the state delegation, convened to discuss workgroup progress and Task Force goals.

The goal of the Task Force is to generate a report identifying gaps in the existing emergency preparedness and planning efforts and provide recommendations to address those gaps. Each workgroup shall generate a list of recommendations, which will be compiled into a report and presented to the full Task Force for feedback at a summit in Fall 2007. The final report will be revised and approved by the Steering Committee and sent to the Governor of Massachusetts and other state officials.

Date: May 24, 2007 – Personal Preparedness Workgroup Meeting
Outcome: Continued discussion to identify areas in personal preparedness planning in need of enhancement.

Date: May 25, 2007 – Shelter Workgroup Meeting
Outcome: Continued discussion to identify areas in sheltering planning in need of enhancement.

Date: June 7, 2007 – Communications Workgroup Meeting
Outcome: Continued discussion to identify areas in communications planning in need of enhancement.

Date: June 8, 2007 – Evacuation Workgroup Meeting
Outcome: Continued discussion to identify areas in evacuation planning in

need of enhancement.

Date: June 19, 2007 – Evacuation Workgroup Meeting
Outcome: Continued discussion to identify areas in evacuation planning in need of enhancement.

Date: June 27, 2007 – Steering Committee Meeting
Outcome: The Task Force Steering Committee convened to discuss workgroup progress on drafting recommendations and gather feedback. The workgroups have identified numerous barriers to the emergency preparedness and planning process and are generating recommended strategies to addressing those barriers, consistent with the scope of the Task Force.

The Steering Committee is looking to reconvene the full Task Force at a Summit in early October 2007 to report their findings.

Date: June 28, 2007 – Registries Workgroup Meeting
Outcome: Continued discussions on why and how self-identifying registries should be created and maintained.

Date: July 9, 2007 – Shelter Workgroup Meeting
Outcome: Continued discussion to identify areas in sheltering planning in need of enhancement.

Date: July 11, 2007 – Communications Workgroup Meeting
Outcome: Continued discussion to identify areas in communications planning in need of enhancement.

Date: July 12, 2007 – Personal Preparedness Workgroup Meeting
Outcome: Continued discussion to refine recommendations for personal preparedness planning.

Date: July 25, 2007 – Shelter Workgroup Meeting
Outcome: Continued discussion to refine recommendations for sheltering planning.

Date: July 27, 2007 – Evacuation Workgroup Meeting
Outcome: Continued discussion to refine recommendations for evacuation planning.

III. Emergency Planning Highlights/Coordination

Checklist of coordinating agencies in your delegation response to disability, elderly, and/or emergency management at various levels.

State	Region	County	City	Service Providers	Emergency Response	NGO	Other
✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

The Emergency Preparedness Task Force has been expanded to include state partners and stakeholders from numerous organizations representing the: blind, deaf and hard of hearing, mobility impaired, chemically sensitive, elderly, and immigrant populations, local emergency management, emergency responders, health departments, and housing authorities, as well as transportation and service providers.

IV. Emergency Preparedness Highlights/Products

Checklist of products e.g., plans, guidance, system, database, technology, policy changes and procedures

<u>PRODUCTS</u>	State	Region	County	City	Service Providers	Emergency Response	NGO	Other
Plans								
Guidance								
System								
Database								
Technology								
Policy								
Procedures								
Other	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Preparedness efforts have focused on personal preparedness, universally accessible communications (pre-event education and training), and self-identification registries. Workgroup discussions have revealed the need for state and local plans, systems, databases, and policies. Through the Task Force, we have forged and/or strengthened partnerships with service providers, NGOs, and emergency responders for many of these elements.

V. Emergency Response Highlights/Focus

	State	Region	County	City	Service Providers	NGO	Other
Drills	✓	✓		✓		✓	
Training	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Education	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Register	✓	✓		✓			
Transportation	✓	✓		✓			
Screening	✓	✓				✓	
Sheltering	✓	✓		✓		✓	
Long-Term Housing							
Long-Term Health Care							
Case Management							
Access to Benefit Programs							
Rehabilitation							
Other							

Workgroup discussions on emergency response have focused on accessible emergency notification and communication, evacuation and transportation, and universally accessible sheltering. Through these efforts, the Task Force has begun to evaluate the above areas with participating service providers, NGOs, and emergency planners and responders.

VI. Emergency Recovery Highlights

	State	Region	County	City	Service Providers	NGO	Other
Drills	✓			✓			
Training	✓			✓			
Education	✓			✓			
Register							
Transportation							
Screening							
Sheltering							
Long-Term Housing							
Long-Term							

Health Care							
Case Management							
Access to Benefit Programs							
Rehabilitation							
Other							

The defined focus of this Task Force is emergency preparedness; however, some aspects of response and recovery are being discussed and addressed as well.

VII. Next Steps

Significant Planned Activities:

Workgroups will continue meeting. The Steering Committee will begin to review recommendations from the workgroups and compile a draft report. The draft report will be reviewed by the entire Task Force membership at a follow-up summit on October 18, 2007, with a final report being submitted to the Governor shortly thereafter.

Products under Development:

Report including recommendations from each workgroup to the Governor.

VIII. Other

Points of Interest:

There is a separate effort underway to establish state-supported regional shelters. The work of the Sheltering Workgroup is being used to inform policy decisions on that project.

Challenges:

To identify and dedicate the resources needed to implement the Task Force recommendations.