



MARYLAND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY 2017 ANNUAL SPOTLIGHT

Who We Are

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Coordinating people, organizations, resources, and information to ensure the preparedness and resilience of the people, businesses, communities, and infrastructure of Maryland.

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A Prepared & Resilient Maryland

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Service

A commitment to serving the public and upholding the trust of the community

Human Capital

Investing in the MEMA workforce to build a modern, capable Agency

Diversity with People and Jobs

Creating an Agency representing a variety of backgrounds and experiences

Respect

A shared sense of respect for colleagues and partners within Maryland

Quality

Striving to produce accurate, succinct products that meet the needs of MEMA customers

Expertise

A desire to excel as the experts in emergency management processes



From the Executive Director



Russell Strickland
Executive Director

Dear friends and partners,

I often say that people are at the heart of what we do each and every day, and looking back over what we have accomplished in the past year, I believe it more than ever. In an environment where yesterday's concept of disasters and emergencies is being constantly redefined, our role as emergency managers has significantly expanded, driving us beyond the realm of simply reacting to an emergent event to engaging in continual problem-solving and multiagency coordination across a range of issues. I am encouraged and inspired by the dedication of our staff and partners and the work we have completed together both to help ensure the preparedness and resiliency of our state and to lend a hand to our neighbors in need. While the pages ahead provide a more in-depth look, I would like to briefly highlight a few of those efforts here.

This year marked one of the most active Atlantic hurricane seasons on record, with extremely destructive results. Having been spared significant, direct impacts, Maryland had the opportunity to coordinate and deploy state and local responders and resources to provide assistance to hard hit areas in Texas, Florida, Georgia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. We also conducted a number of response operations and coordination for in-state incidents throughout the year, including support to Queen Anne's County following an EF-2 tornado which damaged over 150 buildings and homes in July.

On the preparedness front, the Maryland Emergency Management Agency conducted several exercises, including the biennial, graded exercise of our radiological plan for the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant and a tabletop exercise focused on policy-level decision making. We also hosted the first-ever "Whole Community Summit," bringing together over 100 businesses, voluntary organizations, and government emergency management offices to conduct a joint workshop on disaster preparedness and continuity of operations. Additionally, Maryland Emergency Management Agency collaborated with state and local partners to develop the Maryland Statewide Incident Management Team. This is an exciting initiative to enhance the state's response capabilities and support jurisdictions with complex multi-operational period incidents.

Maryland submitted over \$10 million in Hazard Mitigation Grant Program projects following a funding opportunity from the 2016 January blizzard and an additional 5 projects as part of the annual and nationally competitive Pre-Disaster Mitigation and Flood Mitigation Assistance grant programs. The Maryland Emergency Management Agency also was awarded a \$2.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for developing training, exercising, and planning programs for complex coordinated terrorist attacks.

All of that to say, this has been an incredible year for us. I look forward to building on that momentum and taking on new opportunities in the year ahead, as we continue our ongoing work in risk reduction, capacity-building, and consequence management. The ever-evolving field of emergency management continually challenges us to grow and adapt and the dedicated individuals I work with every day give me full confidence in our ability to meet those challenges and excel. Thank you for your partnership and support.

- Russ



Risk Reduction & Strategy



Press conference announcing the Maryland Emergency Management Agency's partnership with Nextdoor, the private social network for neighborhoods.



The Maryland Whole Community Summit included members from the emergency management, voluntary, and private sectors.

- The Maryland Emergency Management Agency continues to implement the Maryland Emergency Management System, the State's comprehensive system for ensuring agencies and stakeholders can efficiently and effectively work together to prevent, protect from, mitigate, respond to, and recover from incidents, emergencies, and disasters. This is accomplished through two programs: consequence management and disaster risk reduction.
- Maryland submitted over \$10 million in Hazard Mitigation Grant Program projects following a funding opportunity from the 2016 January blizzard and an additional five projects as part of the annual and nationally competitive Pre-Disaster Mitigation and Flood Mitigation Assistance grant programs.
- In November 2017, we hosted the first-ever "Whole Community Summit," which brought together over 100 businesses, voluntary organizations, and government emergency management offices to conduct a joint workshop on disaster preparedness and continuity of operations.
- Our External Outreach branch developed a new, live-action video teaching residents how to build a go-kit for Preparedness Month in October 2017.
- In March, the Maryland Emergency Management Agency became the first statewide emergency management agency in the county to partner with Nextdoor (nextdoor.com), the private social network for neighborhoods, to improve statewide and neighbor-to-neighbor communications before, during, and after emergencies.
- Our agency is an active member of the National Capital Region Homeland Security Executive Committee and supports the Committee's mission to help the Region prevent, prepare for, protect against, and respond to all-hazards homeland security and public safety events.



Operations

- The State of Maryland passed the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant Radiological Ingestion Pathway Exercise having demonstrated reasonable assurance that the public can be protected during a nuclear power plant emergency. During CALVEX17, the Maryland Emergency Management Agency was managing several events simultaneously, including processing Emergency Management Assistance Compact requests for Hurricanes Irma and Harvey, activating the Opioid Operational Command Center, and executing the plume phase of CALVEX17 in the State Emergency Operations Center.
- The State Emergency Operations Center, Planning, and Training and Exercises branches partnered to develop new State Emergency Operations Center playbooks to guide the actions taken by each State Emergency Operations Center section.
- The Maryland Emergency Management Agency completed the State of Maryland Consequence Management Operations Plan, which is the State's emergency operations plan. The Consequence Management Operations Plan outlines how State Departments/Agencies coordinate to prevent, respond to, and recover from disasters.
- The Geographic Information System unit has developed a new Operational and Situational Preparedness for Responding to an Emergency training program, and continues to train local and State emergency management partners in the use of the Web Emergency Operations Center and Geographic Information System applications.
- The Maryland Joint Operations Center, the State's 24/7 watch center, provides State senior leadership with timely situational awareness information day-to-day, and during myriad significant incidents, including providing tropical storm and winter storm briefings to support decision making throughout 2017.
- The Maryland State Emergency Operations Center supported response efforts following the Kent Island Tornado incident in July 2017.
- The State Emergency Operations Center supported eight Emergency Management Assistance Compact missions to support the States of Florida and Texas, as well as the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, following Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria.
- Additionally, during 2017, the Maryland Emergency Management Agency worked to improve resource coordination with the Maryland National Guard – a critical partner during disasters.



Executive Director Strickland teaches an instructor course to a few MEMA staff members.



The Maryland Joint Operations Center, the State's 24/7 watch center.



Mission Support



The State Emergency Operations Center

- During 2017, the Maryland Emergency Management Agency and the Maryland Department of the Military Human Resource Office processed a number of new hires. Eight new faces were added to the staff during the past year, which included Program Manager IV, Program Manager Senior I, two Emergency Management Operations Officers, Administrator III, Administrative Officer I, Program Manager II, Human Resources Officer.
- The Public Assistance Office paid 92 sub-grantees \$13,828,241.57 and closed another 33 subgrants. Public Assistance payments were made in support of Hurricane Sandy from 2012, the Winter Storm, and the Ellicott City flooding from 2016.
- During the past year, the Grants Unit of Mission Support processed more than \$30 million in federal grants to local jurisdictions which included emergency preparedness, hazard mitigation, homeland security, and more.

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