

JANUARY 2021

NERAC NEWSLETTER

Northeast Homeland Security Regional Advisory Council

Serving 85 Communities in Northeastern Massachusetts



New NERAC Mobile App

NERAC has launched a new mobile app to provide the region with the most up-to-date information about NERAC, including:

- Cache Program Resources, including Equipment Guides and Rules for Borrowing
- NERAC Policies and Procedures
- Contact Information
- MA Tactical Communication Information



For instructions on how to access the app email cgraham@mapc.org.

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Hospital Surge Equipment

To support hospital surge capabilities during the COVID-19 outbreak and future mass casualty or terrorist incidents, NERAC has purchased 27 portable ventilators.

These portable ventilators have been distributed throughout the region and will be a regional asset available to all hospitals serving NERAC communities.



For more information about NERAC visit nerac.us or contact NERAC's Program Managers :



Austin Murray:
AMurray@mapc.org
Caroline Graham:
CGraham@mapc.org

NERAC Cybersecurity Initiative

The four Massachusetts Homeland Security Advisory Councils, in partnership with the MassCyberCenter, hosted a series of webinars to raise cybersecurity awareness, develop cyber resiliency, and provide municipalities and first responder disciplines with resources to enhance their ability to protect from, prepare for, and respond to cyber incidents and attacks. The webinars were based on DHS's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's (CISA) Cyber Essentials framework:

- October 19th, 2020: Cyber Essentials: *Yourself, Your Staff, and Your Systems*
- October 27th, 2020: Cyber Essentials: *Your Surroundings, Your Data, and Your Actions Under Stress*

The webinars included discussion from a panel of cybersecurity experts from across the State:

- **Stephanie Helm:** Director, MassCyberCenter, Mass Tech Collaborative
- **Sam Curry:** Chief Security Officer, Cybereason & Visiting Fellow, National Security Institute
- **Ron Ford:** Regional Cybersecurity Advisor, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- **Seth Bouvier:** Cyber Security Advisor, MA Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



The webinars were recorded and posted on the MAPC YouTube page and the NERAC. Click the titles below to access these webinars:

[Cyber Essentials: Yourself, Your Staff, and Your Systems](#)

[Cyber Essentials: Your Surroundings, Your Data, and Your Actions Under Stress](#)

There are also six online e-learning modules for each of the sections of CISA's Cyber Essentials Framework. They can be found under the "Preparedness Resources" tab of the NERAC website:

<https://nerac.us/preparedness-resources/>

NERAC Preparedness Resources



The NERAC website has a 'Preparedness Resources' tab on its website with a variety of helpful links and guides for:

- Access and Functional Needs
- Business Preparedness
- Cybersecurity
- Citizen Preparedness
- Independent Study Courses
- School Safety
- EVAC Calculator Tool

Visit NERAC's Preparedness Resources page **[HERE](#)** to access these resources.

Radio Programming Initiative



In an attempt to improve interoperability in the region, NERAC implemented the following policy for all grant-funded projects starting in FFY2020:

In order to qualify for funding, organizations or municipalities requesting NERAC funding must be able to demonstrate that the Massachusetts Tactical Channel Plan has been implemented into their radio systems, to the extent possible based on the technical capabilities of their system.

Understanding that not all communities have direct access to certified communications professionals to implement this change, NERAC plans to offer the services of experienced COMLs and COMTs to assist with reprogramming efforts.

NERAC is seeking certified COMLs and COMTs interested in providing technical assistance to municipalities for mobile and portable radio reprogramming and channel organization services. NERAC will offer interested individuals—who are approved by the Council's Interoperability Subcommittee—up to \$35.00/hr. in backfill/overtime reimbursement for their efforts.

If you are a COML or COMT interested in this initiative, please email cgraham@mapc.org.

Virtual Training Resources

Due to the restrictions on gatherings required by the COVID-19 outbreak, NERAC will be unable to provide in-person trainings and exercises for the foreseeable future.

Until trainings can be held again, there are several free online resources that offer useful programming for public safety personnel, including trainings on topics like the Incident Command System (ICS), active shooter response, and cybersecurity, among others. Explore the list below and click on the links for useful virtual public safety trainings and resources.

MEMA Training Calendar:

<https://mematraining.chs.state.ma.us/TRS/courseSearch.do>

FEMA's Emergency Management Institute:

<https://training.fema.gov/is/crslist.aspx>

TEEX DHS/FEMA Funded Online Trainings:

<https://teex.org/program/nerrtc-online-training/>

NERAC Cybersecurity Webinars and training modules:

<https://nerac.us/preparedness-resources/>

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA):

<https://www.cisa.gov/cisa-training>

FEMA Center for Domestic Preparedness:

https://cdp.dhs.gov/online_course

Department of Homeland Security:

<https://www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/frg-training>

FEMA Center for Domestic Preparedness Instructor-Led Courses:

<https://cdp.dhs.gov/vilt>

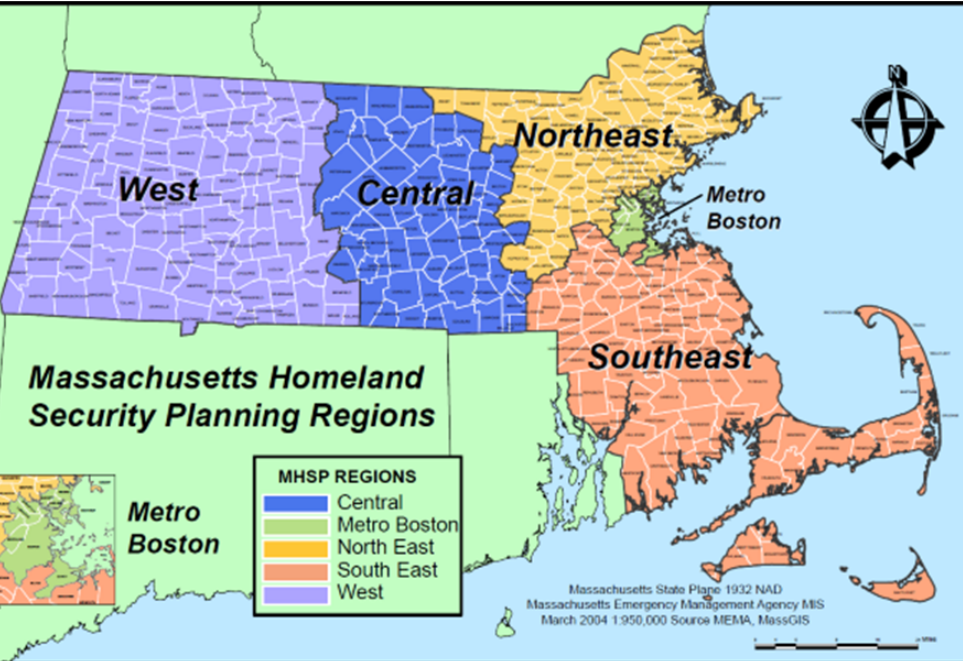
NERAC Funding Opportunities

Each year, the Northeast Homeland Security Regional Advisory Council (NERAC) receives an allocation of funding from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) through the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) to improve the capability for the 85 municipalities in the Northeast Region to prevent, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism and other public safety emergencies. As part of NERAC's strategic budgeting process for the upcoming fiscal year (FFY2021), the Council has elected to solicit project ideas from the whole community for inclusion in the budget.

All NERAC projects must:

- Provide a regional benefit to a minimum of three (3) municipalities.
- Have a clear connection to homeland security/anti-terrorism (projects may serve a dual-purpose of improving preparedness for natural disasters as well but must also have a clear connection to terrorism).
- Have the primary purpose of supporting homeland security needs for non-routine events, rather than day-to-day operational needs.

If you have a project proposal for NERAC funding, please reach out to cgraham@mapc.org for more information and a link to a funding request form.



MASSACHUSETTS HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM



In 2004, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) designated 5 Homeland Security Planning Regions. EOPSS appointed multi-disciplinary and multi-jurisdictional Advisory Councils for the Northeast, Southeast, Central, and Western regions. These groups represent all relevant public safety disciplines, including law enforcement, fire service, emergency management, public health, hospitals, emergency medical services, public works, transportation, corrections, communications, and local government.

The Advisory Councils serve as the policy making and administrative bodies for the Homeland Security Regions as defined by the Massachusetts Homeland Security Strategy developed by EOPSS. The regions receive funding from the U.S.

Department of Homeland Security through EOPSS. MAPC acts as the fiduciary for the Northeast, Southeast, Central and Western Homeland Security Councils, and also provides planning, facilitation, administrative support, and project management services to these regions.



NERAC COUNCIL MEMBERS

Law Enforcement

Chief Robert Picariello
Marblehead Police Department

Chief John Fisher
Carlisle Police Department

Chief John LeLacheur
Beverly Police Department

Fire Services

Chief Jason Gilliland (Chair)
Marblehead Fire Department

Chief Thomas Judge
Concord Fire Department

Chief Brian Moriarty
Lawrence Fire Department

Emergency Management

Mark Foster
Director, Beverly Emergency Management

Public Health

David Ouellette
Health Agent, Town of Dracut

Public Works

John Sanchez
Director, Burlington Public Works Department

Emergency Medical Services

Jon Brickett
Executive Director, Northeast EMS

Hospitals

William Klag
EMS Coordinator & Emergency Preparedness
Coordinator, North Shore Medical Center

Public Safety Communications

Chris Ryan
Dep. Director, North Shore Regional 911
Center

Correctional Services

Kevin Coppinger
Essex County Sheriff

David Spinosa
Communications Director, Essex County
Sheriff's Department

Regional Transportation Authority

Joseph Costanzo (Vice-Chair)
Administrator, Merrimack Valley RTA

Government Administration

Paul Cohen
Town Manager, Town of Chelmsford

Schools

Christopher Malone
Superintendent, Tewksbury Public Schools

NERAC Meeting Schedule

NERAC Full Council

Date: 2nd Thursday of Every Month

Time: 1:00pm-3:00pm

Location: Remote Zoom Call until further notice

Training and Exercise Committee

Date: 2nd Thursday of Every Month

Time: 12:00pm-1:00pm

Location: Remote Zoom Call until further notice

Interoperability Committee Meeting

Date: 2nd Tuesday of Every Month

Time: 9:30am-12:00pm

Location: Remote Zoom Call until further notice

Cache Committee Meeting

Date: Quarterly

Time: TBD

Location: Remote Zoom Call until further notice

All agendas , minutes, Zoom links, and open meeting notices for NERAC meetings are posted at www.nerac.us.



Follow the official NERAC Facebook and Twitter accounts for up-to-date information on trainings, exercises, and resources.



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