

Oxford County ARES/CERT Newsletter

for May 2025



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Greetings Everyone!

I hope you have a safe and good Memorial Day weekend.

In our meetings we have been planning for events over the next four months. This means getting the mobile equipment ready, improving the radio room at the EMA, and attending table top drills to plan for the September 20 full scale drill.

Thank you to Mark KE1M for working on the Kenwood D-710s that will be reassigned to 'new' locations. Over the past twenty years firehouses have been replaced with new buildings, hospitals have been remodeled to service the needs of our current population, and EMS facilities have been added. The equipment that was put into town and regional buildings by Gary N1ZNJ, Bob N1WJO, Brad N1GZB and others is being located and updated.

Over the next 6 months, we as a group will need to see which equipment is 'aging out' and begin a replacement schedule. Decisions as to what type of radios we should use will need to be made by the group. And yes I mean the group. We have been relying on analog only equipment as the standard for our county radio comms. At this time, most amateur radio manufacturers produce radios that are dual mode.

- Analog and DMR
- Analog and Fusion
- Analog and D-Star

This limits our choices. In a perfect world, we would be able to have a tri-band, cross-band repeat capable, auto selecting analog, DMR, D-Star, Fusion 100 watt VHF/50 watt UHF radio. This would allow us to communicate throughout most of the Oxford County in an emergency situation on simplex. Since that radio doesn't exist from the major manufacturers, we need to look at the benefits of what is available.

At the EMA radio room, a decision was made to have three radios to cover the various digital modes. We have started adding that capability in the communication trailer as well.

As we begin replacement of our equipment that will be deployed to the fire stations, EMS and hospitals, we will need everyone in the group to have input into what type of equipment will be our 'standard' for that area of the county. It may end up that in the extreme southwestern part of the county an analog/D-Star radio or analog/Fusion radio would be most beneficial to relay messages from NH and Massachusetts into the county EMA in South Paris. In the northern part of the county an analog/DMR radio may be necessary to maintain disaster communications. Or some other variation might be necessary.

As a group, we need to check, renew, update any MOU's we have with the various hospitals, fire departments, EMS and town EMA's, Red Cross, churches, etc.. In the Tabletop exercise I recently attended our services were mentioned by at least one town official. In the last 20 years, we had licensed amateurs in fire departments, volunteers in town EMAs, and hospitals. As you know many things have changed in the past 20 years.

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Trek Across Maine

Trek Across Maine is June 13 through 15 this year. The riders will be starting the ride from Pineland Farms in New Gloucester Maine. In the three day ride, they will traverse the side roads to Bates College and then to St. Joseph's College before the Sunday finish back at Pineland Farms. Gary Gilman N1ZNJ is the contact for the event.

2025 ARRL Field Day is June 28 - 29



We are holding Field Day at the EMA 9 Western Prom in South Paris, ME again this year! We will determine our operating class of 1F, 2F, 3F, 4F on the first day of Field Day. Come visit us! Our operating hours will be from 2:00 pm Saturday through 2:00 pm Sunday. Operating software will be n3fjp's Field Day logging software. We have been placed on the Field Day site locator map on the <https://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator>.



Horses Across Maine

Firecracker Ride

We will be providing communication for ride coordination as the riders pass through checkpoints. The Ride begins at the Waterford World's Fairgrounds in North Waterford ME following trails on abandoned roads, snowmobile trails and railroad beds to Sweden ME. The event starts July 5th at 6:00 am for the 50 mile ride and 6:30 am for the 30 mile ride and finishes with the last rider at approximately 3:00 pm.

Waterford Worlds Fair

We have been asked to supply the communications trailer for radio coordinating of the fair this year. It will be used by the EMA for promotional booth, RCC as a backup comm center, and as a promotional site for us as well. We will need at least a representative for each day.

Helicopter Airlift on the Appalachian Trail

We have been asked to assist with communications for an area that is underserved by cellphones. The Communications Trailer will be positioned to ensure communications from the 'dropsite' and base are maintained. Currently the August date of the airdrop is flexible and to be determined in an upcoming meeting (also TBA).

Drill - Mass Casualty Event

On September 20, 2025 Bethel area and Oxford County EMA will holding a mass casualty incident drill. The drill centers around a school bus rollover with multiple injuries and the ability to safely extract and move victims to hospitals as well as reunite them with their families. At this point, our primary role in this drill will be to supply backup communications and ensure the communications trailer works for the RCC as a backup communications site. There are some concerns that the site picked for the accident will not have cellphone coverage and radios will be the main communications. One of the hospitals involved at this time is without any distance communication without relying on

cellphones. They are able to communicate with ambulances when the ambulance is 10 minutes away. Obviously not a good plan for coordinating with other hospitals in the area in a rapidly changing environment without tying up potentially busy phone lines.

Available Trainings 2025

ICS-300 Advanced Incident Command System for Complex Incidents MGT 904

Dover-Foxcroft, ME

June 4, 2025, 0800-1630

[Sign up here](#)

This advanced Incident Command System (ICS) course builds on foundational ICS training, equipping personnel with the skills to manage expanding incidents. Participants will learn how the National Incident Management System (NIMS) supports incident command, apply ICS processes in supervisory roles, and develop an Incident Action Plan (IAP) for a simulated Type III incident.

Prerequisites: IS-100.b, IS-200.b, IS-700.a, and IS-800.b

Hosted by Piscataquis County EMA mconley@piscataquis.us

State of Maine Emergency Management Training Opportunities Bulletin

PER – 320 Personal Protective measures for Biological Events

Augusta, ME

June 5, 2025, 0800-1600

[Sign up here](#)

Personal Protective Measures for Biological Events is a one-day course focusing on the challenges faced by first responders and clinical health care professionals in prehospital and hospital environments as they deal with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) needs and potential contamination issues while dealing with highly infectious diseases. The course provides participants with an overview of PPE and includes experiential learning activities on donning and doffing Level C PPE and technical decontamination. Additionally, participants review the different types of decontamination.

G-191 Emergency Operations Center/Incident Command system Interface

Alfred, ME

June 5, 2025, 0800-1600

[Sign up here](#)

This course equips participants with the knowledge and skills to establish an effective interface between the Incident Command System (ICS)/Unified Command and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) using National Incident Management System (NIMS) principles. Designed for individuals involved in their community's ICS and EOC activities, the course explores command and coordination structures, analyzes real-world scenarios, and culminates in the development of an ICS/EOC interface action plan tailored to the participant's community.

Prerequisites: IS-100.b, IS-200.b, IS-700.a, IS-800.b, and IS-2200

Hosted by York County EMA sgoswam@yorkcountymaine.org

I Love U Guys Train the Trainer - Standard Response Protocol & Standard Reunification Methods

Orono, ME

June 18, 2025, 0800-1600

Hosted by Aroostook County EMA

This full-day Train the Trainer Workshop from the "I Love U Guys" Foundation equips participants to implement and teach the Standard Response Protocol (SRP) and Standard Reunification Method (SRM) within their schools or districts. Attendees will gain a solid understanding of the SRP's five crisis response actions and the SRM's strategies for post-crisis reunification. By the end of the training, participants will be prepared to enhance emergency plans and lead reunification efforts effectively. [Standard Response Protocol Training.pdf](#)

Recommended Audience: Educators, Administrators, School and District Safety Teams, Campus Supervisors, Law Enforcement, Fire/EMS, Emergency Managers, Victim Advocates

To Register and for more information contact: Chief Matt Cummings policechief@fortfairfield.org

Ammonia Safety & Emergency Response Training

Bangor, ME

August 1st or 2nd, 2025, 0800-1630

Prepare to effectively manage ammonia incidents from start to finish. This session begins with an overview of anhydrous ammonia properties, transportation, containers, release types, troubleshooting, and response strategies. Control and containment tactics from both offensive and defensive perspectives will be covered, discussing key lessons learned through real-life case studies of stationary facilities and transportation incidents, along with live release training footage. After a safety briefing and drill preparation, the second half of the day will focus on hands-on live release training in the field, primarily emphasizing tarp and cover operations for control and containment of anhydrous ammonia.

Target Audience: First responders, other emergency responders and hazardous materials technicians
PPE Requirements and registrations: Go to the [MEMA Website](#) to access the flyer with registration and PPE requirements.

State of Maine Emergency Management Training Opportunities Bulletin

G0428 Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) Train-the-Trainer

Augusta, ME

August 14-15, 2025, 0800-1700

[Sign up here](#)

This Train-the-Trainer course prepares participants to effectively deliver FEMA's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Basic Training. The course emphasizes conveying the CERT program's mission, including safety, teamwork, and its role in community emergency operations. Participants will learn to create a structured yet engaging learning environment, ensure students meet training objectives, and utilize the Maine 2024 CERT Train-the-Trainer Instructor Materials. Additionally, the course covers the CERT registration process and steps for activation.

By the end of the training, participants will demonstrate their understanding of the CERT Basic Training curriculum, apply effective classroom management and teaching techniques, and successfully present assigned course sections. Instructors will also model the core values of CERT and foster a positive learning experience for future responders.

Prerequisites: IS-200.b, IS-200.b, CERT Basic Training Course or current first responders may substitute IS-317 & IS-325 (recommended)

For active links to these courses please email Wayne at wstrout2008@gmail.com for a copy of the bulletin.

Links to online CERT Courses:

IS 315 A: CERT and the Incident Command System (ICS)
<https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-315.a&lang=en>

IS-317.A: Introduction to Community Emergency Response Team (CERTs) <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-317.a&lang=en>

What is an ICS 205?

The ICS 205 form is used to list the frequencies to be used during an incident or event. It is setup in a uniform standard format that widely used by FEMA, MEMA, Military branches, and other agencies that need to coordinate communications. It speeds up the process of programming radios to be used during the incident or event. Here is what the form looks like:

[illegible]

More information about this form will be available at <https://www.n1yis.org> in the near future. I do plan to use it for Field Day vhf coordinating of generic communications so that everyone has a chance to see it in an event. It will not be used for making contacts in the 'contest.'

Restoring Amateur Radio Communication within Oxford County

We are restoring communication stations within Oxford County. Thanks to the help of Andy N1MRE, Mark KE1M and others, radios previously 'missing' are being found, reprogrammed and relocated. In our June newsletter, I hope to have a detailed report for the group about the radios and gear, their locations, who to contact in the event of an emergency to go in and operate the radios.

We are also looking into using HF at these locations. Several different ideas have been suggested for supplying operators and gear. In our monthly meetings (as well as the dinner premeeting at Applebee's in Oxford) we have been discussing solutions for making HF usable.

NOAA Weather Forecast For the Memorial Day Weekend
Zone Forecasts for New Hampshire and western Maine
National Weather Service Gray ME
311 AM EDT Fri May 23 2025

MEZ007-232115-
Northern Oxford-
Including the cities of Upton, Wilsons Mills, Andover,
Byron,
Middle [Dam](#), Roxbury, and South Arm
311 AM EDT Fri May 23 2025

.TODAY...Rain. Highs in the lower 40s. North winds around 10 mph

with gusts up to 25 mph. Chance of rain 90 percent.
.TONIGHT...Cloudy with [scattered](#) rain showers. [Scattered](#) snow showers after midnight. Lows in the upper 30s. Light and variable winds. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.
.SATURDAY...Cloudy with [scattered](#) rain showers. Highs in the mid 40s. Northwest winds around 10 mph. Chance of rain 50 percent.
.SATURDAY NIGHT...[Mostly cloudy](#). [Scattered](#) showers in the evening. Lows in the upper 30s. Northwest winds around 10 mph in the evening, becoming light and variable. Chance of rain 50 percent.
.SUNDAY...[Mostly cloudy](#) in the morning, then becoming [partly sunny](#). A 30 percent chance of showers. Highs in the lower 50s. Northwest winds around 10 mph with gusts up to 20 mph.
.SUNDAY NIGHT...[Partly cloudy](#). A chance of showers in the evening. Lows in the upper 30s. Chance of rain 30 percent.
.MEMORIAL DAY...[Partly sunny](#). A chance of showers in the afternoon. Highs in the mid 60s. Chance of rain 30 percent.
.MONDAY NIGHT...[Mostly clear](#). A chance of showers in the evening. Lows in the lower 40s. Chance of rain 30 percent.
.TUESDAY...[Mostly sunny](#). Highs around 70.

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MEZ012-232115-
Southern Oxford-
Including the cities of Bethel, Bryant Pond, Hanover, Locke Mills, Milton, Newry, Rumford, Norway, Fryeburg, and Oxford
311 AM EDT Fri May 23 2025

.TODAY...Rain. Highs in the mid 40s. North winds 10 to 15 mph. Gusts up to 30 mph this morning. Chance of rain 90 percent.
.TONIGHT...Cloudy with [scattered](#) showers. Lows in the lower 40s. Light and variable winds. Chance of rain 50 percent.

.SATURDAY...Cloudy with [scattered](#) showers. Highs in the lower 50s. Light and variable winds, becoming northwest around 10 mph with gusts up to 20 mph in the afternoon. Chance of rain 40 percent.
.SATURDAY NIGHT...[Mostly cloudy](#). Lows in the lower 40s. Northwest winds around 10 mph.
.SUNDAY...[Partly sunny](#). Highs in the upper 50s. Northwest winds around 10 mph with gusts up to 20 mph.
.SUNDAY NIGHT...[Partly cloudy](#). Lows in the lower 40s.
.MEMORIAL DAY...[Partly sunny](#). Highs in the upper 60s.
.MONDAY NIGHT...[Mostly clear](#). Lows in the mid 40s.
.TUESDAY...[Mostly sunny](#). Highs in the mid 70s.