

2011

This year, the Dukes County Emergency Management Agency made significant efforts to improve its services to the County Infrastructure and to partner with other Island Government and Non-Government entities.

Some progress was made towards the goal of establishing a Regional Emergency Planning Committee for Dukes County. Five of the six vineyard towns have signed onto the program, along with Dukes County and the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah. The name of the REPC will be the Martha's Vineyard Regional Emergency Planning Committee.

A temporary radio communications room has been built in the cellar of the administration building. The room is equipped with two phone lines, two cell carrier lines, and a fax machine. Computers are installed for internet weather, web-EOC, a program for response reporting to the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, a hurricane tracking program called Hurevac and for email alerts to county residents. A radio that links the County to the island town Emergency Operation Centers and a radio that links the island to the mainland are also installed. Radio antennas are mounted on the Emergency Management van. Emergency Power is provided by a county portable generator.

The only hurricane to affect Dukes County was Hurricane Irene on August 28, 2011, although Hurricane Irene weakened to a tropical storm immediately after landfall. The eastern quadrant of the Irene remained intact as that section had never transversed land and moved north-northeast across southern Bristol and Plymouth countries in Massachusetts. Winds at times reached hurricane force from Westport east to Woods Hole on the south coast. The county EM opened the newly built radio communications room for the incident and was helped by Asst. EM Director Brian Kennedy. Emergency Power had to be brought online for a few hours during a power outage.

This year, the department continued the program that delivered storm condition alerts and disaster preparation information by email. Alerts were sent out to warn of impending threats of severe weather events along with information bulletins for preparing for these events, especially Hurricane Irene.

The County Emergency Management Agency, this year, continued its partnership with the Martha's Vineyard Center for Living as well as the partnership with the MV Medical Reserve Corps, acting as the logistics coordinator for both entities.

The Island Boards of Health agents again invited the County EM to perform the duties of the Logistics Section Chief for the annual flu clinic at the MVRHS this year. This year's flu clinic continued to show an increase of drive-thru participants over indoors inoculation. This is changing the logistics train setup from an indoor setup at the High School with tables and chairs to an outdoor effort with tents, port-a-potties and staging vehicles to support weather protected vaccination material preparation, set-up and inoculation. This outdoor method is preferable for large scale inoculations during

pandemics or other incidents. The county emergency management department is ideally suited to the tasks of logistics for this island-wide effort.

Several pieces of equipment were either refurbished or purchased for responding to emergencies. A new portable gasoline/propane generator was purchased, several radios were reprogrammed, and the county radiation monitoring kit was recalibrated. Several pieces of defunct equipment and vehicles were disposed of at no cost to the island residents.

The County EM participated in the annual drill which tests the MV Airport's ability to respond to an aircraft accident on the airfield.

It has been a very rewarding and successful year.

Respectfully Submitted
Charles (Chuck) Cotnoir