**MOBEX Swift Response**

**Communications Working Group Meeting**

**MEMA Headquarters, Framingham, MA**

**March 17, 2015**

**Exercise Scenario/Communications**

The scenario will simulate a hurricane. There will be a requirement for communications support on the site so the COML will be flown in.

The exercise will involve three locations for work: SEOC, Topsfield, Plainville, however there will need to be COMLs staged at the airports where the teams are leaving from as well.

In order to tie the three locations together the command elements at each site will use a command system for each to tie together. This will be a wide area coordination channel which will involve dropping a COML on the state system to use.

Some issues from last year were not technical, but were user errors. Team members did not have charged batteries and some were on the wrong channels.

**Communications Support**

Comm support in Topsfield:

Cache radios will be distributed to the south teams to use. Squad leaders will carry two radios- liaison radio and tech radio.

In Plainville tech teams will use their own radio on UHF and will be assigned a Fireground. If a team comes in that doesn’t have a common channel there will be interoperability issues. At this time Barnstable isn’t operable but the teams can fly in cache radios.

No Patching will be needed for the event.

UTAC for Topsfield

UTAC for Plainville

Squad leaders will have UHF

South teams have UHF already except Barnstable.

**Staffing**

Communications people will be placed at key locations- rescue sites, hospital sites, etc.

SEOC: Steve Staffier

Topsfield site: Tyler Dechene

Fairgrounds: Phil Sharon with Field Comm 60 Joe Conlon alternate

Plainville: TBD

Steve Staffier will send out an email to the COMU team asking for support from people at the other key locations.

The group needs to find an overall Communications Coordinator (COMC) to coordinate the event and maintain coordination at SEOC

**AirOps Plan**

The Statewide Air Ops Communications Plan will be utilized.

**Equipment:**

Equipment that will fly in the helicopter with the team:

Spare Batteries and chargers (2 pelican cases 1600 model)

Cache radios

Due to the scenario vehicles cannot be staged but arrive at significant delay; Both sites will plan to move vehicles in after significant delay.

Field Comm Units for the exercise still need to be determined; as of meeting time the following units were identified and Steve will locate an additional unit for each site:

South: Sutton

North: Lowell

**Next Step:**

The notes will be distributed to the overall planning group and the communications working group.

Team members will be identified.

 At the table top a brief update will be provided.

No additional working group meetings are needed at this time.