Harper Appointed Director in New Hampshire

CONCORD, NH - Jennifer L. Harper was recently appointed by Governor Christopher T. Sununu and confirmed by Executive Council as Director of the New Hampshire Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM). Director Harper proudly serves as the first female director of HSEM.

As Director, she is responsible for coordinating the state’s response to major disasters as well as planning, training and exercises to ensure readiness at the local and state levels of government for the safety and security of NH’s citizens and visitors. As Homeland Security Advisor, she coordinates homeland security activities through collaboration with federal partners, other state departments and agencies, local governments, private sector partners, and other states.

Since October 2014, she has served as the Assistant Director for the division and played an integral role in the direction of the state’s responses to emergency events. This included ensuring the readiness and coordination efforts of first responders, communities, state agencies and private sector partners in responding to disasters and emergency incidents.

During her more than 30 years of state service, she has served as the Assistant Director for the division and played an integral role in the direction of the state’s responses to emergency events. This included ensuring the readiness and coordination efforts of first responders, communities, state agencies and private sector partners in responding to disasters and emergency incidents.

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Twin Damaging EF1 Tornadoes Touch Down on Cape Cod

CAPE COD, MA: On July 23, 2019, Twin EF1 Tornadoes touched down in Barnstable and in Harwich, Massachusetts. The National Weather Service (NWS) report indicates that the damage in Harwich, Yarmouth and other Cape Cod Towns was caused by both tornadic and straight line winds.

The maximum wind speed for the tornadoes was 110 mph which equates to a strong EF1 Tornado on the Enhanced Fujita Scale. Significant damage was caused to wires, trees, and several homes and commercial properties across eight communities in Barnstable County. The Damage from the tornado was heaviest in Harwich and Yarmouth with EF1 damage in both towns. There was extensive tree and powerline damage that resulted in significant loss of power in the affected towns, with most of the Town of Harwich losing power.

State and local officials continue to respond to impacts from this storm, and recovery operations are continuing.
Harper Appointed Director

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HSEM Operations Chief, Co-Director of the NH Department of Safety’s Information and Analysis Center, HSEM Bioterrorism Coordinator, HSEM State Exercise Training Officer and HSEM Terrorism Coordinator.

Director Harper holds a Master’s Degree in Homeland Security and Defense from the Naval Postgraduate School, a Master’s Degree in Business Administration from Southern NH University, a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Management from Franklin Pierce University, and an Associate’s Degree in Business Science from Hesser College.

“Jennifer has dedicated her career to the protection and well-being of others, and with more than 27 years’ experience in emergency management, is well-qualified to serve in this new role,” Gov. Chris Sununu said.

“I am confident that with Jennifer at the helm of HSEM, New Hampshire citizens will be well served.”

“It is truly an honor and privilege to be the first female director of New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management,” said Harper.

“I stand ready with the dedicated team at HSEM to work collaboratively with our local, state and federal partners to further the State’s prevention, preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation efforts. Together, we all play an important role in the safety and security of New Hampshire’s citizens and visitors.”

Please join us in congratulating Jenn on her appointment as Director and welcome her to the NESEC Board of Directors.

The Great Northeast Shake Out October 17, 2019

WAKEFIELD, MA: Mark your calendars! Millions of people worldwide will practice how to Drop, Cover, and Hold On at 10:17 a.m. on October 17, 2019. You are invited to join by participating in the 2019 Great Northeast ShakeOut!

Last year more than 63 million people were registered in GreatShakeOut earthquake drills worldwide. Participating is a great way for you, your family or organization to be prepared to survive from a large earthquake.

2019 is the sixth year that Northeast states have been organized as an Official ShakeOut Region. FEMA and the Northeast States Emergency Consortium are coordinating recruitment across the entire region.

While earthquake hazard varies from state to state, all of the Northeast States have experienced earthquake shaking. You could be anywhere when an earthquake strikes: at home, at work, at school or even on vacation in another region where earthquake are more common.

For additional information about Northeast Earthquakes visit the Earthquake Hazards Page on our website.

Free Multi-Hazard Risk Analysis

WAKEFIELD, MA - NESEC is offering FREE assistance to help local, state and other critical and essential organizations understand their risk from natural hazards. Using the FEMA program HAZUS-MH, NESEC can model impacts of earthquakes, hurricanes and floods in your jurisdiction.

NESEC will provide selected entities with easy-to-understand information and reports covering the economic impacts of any given earthquake, hurricane, or flood affecting your community. This may include hazard maps, dollar damage estimates, shelter requirements, debris estimates, critical infrastructure and facility functionality and much much more. This information can be an important tool for community resiliency, hazard mitigation, emergency planning and operations, training exercises and more.

To request your FREE Hazard Risk Assessment please complete the simple online application at: http://nesec.org/mapyourriskapply/
RIDGECREST, CA - In a press conference following the Ridgecrest, California 7.1 Magnitude Earthquake, California Governor, Gavin Newsom said, “So look, we’ve got to be prepared. This is a wake up call, not for this community, it is reality for this community, it is a wake up call for the rest of the State and for other parts of the Nation that are not immune from this same kind of activity.”

Governor Newsom’s statement is consistent with the 2014 United States Geological Survey (USGS) National Seismic Hazard Map. According to the USGS all states have some potential for earthquakes and 42 of the 50 states have a reasonable chance of experiencing damaging ground shaking from an earthquake in the next 50 years. Sixteen states have a relatively high likelihood of experiencing damaging ground shaking. These states have historically experienced earthquakes with a magnitude 6 or greater. The eastern U.S. has the potential for larger and more damaging earthquakes than considered in previous maps. This finding is due to what scientists learned following the magnitude 5.8 earthquake that struck Virginia in 2011. It was among the largest earthquakes to occur along the east coast in the last century, and indicated that even larger events in the region are possible.

Though large earthquakes are not common in the Northeast, they have occurred in the past and will occur again. The last major damaging earthquake in the Northeast was the 1755 Cape Ann earthquake (est. M 6.2) that shook from Nova Scotia to Maryland and damaged many brick buildings and chimneys in Boston.

A recurrence of a Cape Ann like earthquake is estimated to cause Billions of Dollars of damage, injury and loss of life. For additional information visit http://nesec.org/earthquakes-hazards.
Earthquakes aren’t just a California Problem.

THE NORTHEAST STATES ALSO EXPERIENCE SIGNIFICANT EARTHQUAKES

- 2.0 - 2.9 Felt by some, slight shaking like a passing truck
- 3.0 - 3.9 Felt by many, can break dishes and windows
- 4.0 - 4.9 Felt by all, possible chimney and plaster damage
- 5.0 - 5.9 Felt by all, chimneys may fall, building damage depends on quality of construction

Do you know your risk?

Earthquakes occurring in the Northeast U.S. from January 1975 – October 2017
Data Source: Weston Observatory

Visit nesec.org for information about northeast earthquakes and how we can help Map Your Risk

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