



**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS**  
**The Monthly Electronic Newsletter of**  
**Homeland Security and Emergency Management**  
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State Police Captain Stephen Barrett (center), incident commander for the active shooter exercise on March 2, gathers information from the command staff. Story on page 2.

**JAPAN DISASTERS PROMPT REVIEW OF NUCLEAR SAFETY** – President Obama ordered the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to do a comprehensive review of the safety of all 104 U.S. nuclear power plants in the wake of the triple disaster in Japan. On March 11, northern Japan was struck by a magnitude 9.0 earthquake. Japan is prone to earthquakes and it is one of the best-prepared industrialized nations, with strict building codes and a strong emergency management program to protect the public. It withstood the earthquake itself fairly well. But the huge tsunami triggered by the quake devastated coastal communities and wiped out control systems and their backups for several reactors at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant on the coast. Workers continue efforts to bring the reactors and stored spent fuel under control. Radiation has been detected in seawater, drinking water and food products, although the extent and seriousness of that contamination is still being determined. Obama said the U.S. needs to learn from the crisis in Japan and to ensure the safety of the American people.

**STATE DETECTS RADIATION FROM JAPANESE REACTORS** – State public health and emergency management officials are monitoring radiation releases from the damaged reactors in Japan in an effort to determine if their effects could be felt here. Public Health Director Dr. Jose Montero said a small amount of radioactive iodine was detected in melting snow on March 28. It is not considered to be a health risk. Monitoring for radioactivity in the air, waters, and soil is done on a continuing basis in New Hampshire. Dr. Montero added that it is not necessary for anyone in New Hampshire to take potassium Iodide (KI) because of the Japanese radiation. He said KI should only be taken by people exposed to very high levels of radiation.

More information on issues related to nuclear plant safety is posted on the HSEM website: <http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/hsem/> and at ReadyNH: <http://www.nh.gov/readynh/>.

**SEABROOK DECLARES UNUSUAL EVENT** – Seabrook Station declared an Unusual Event at 11:43 a.m. on March 28 after a transformer at an auxiliary building service elevator began smoldering. The plant's fire brigade quickly de-energized the transformer, bringing the incident under control. Seabrook operations were not interrupted and there were no injuries or evacuations from the facility. The event was terminated at 12:43 p.m.

**VERMONT YANKEE LICENSE RENEWED** – The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has renewed the operating license of the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant for 20 years. The current license, which expires next year, has been renewed until March 21, 2032. The renewal was based on a safety and environmental review of the applications, which was submitted by plant owner Entergy Nuclear in January 2006. The NRC rejected appeals of the license renewal from the State of Vermont and an anti-nuclear group. Under Vermont law, the state Legislature must also approve the license renewal.

**POLICE STAGE JOINT EXERCISE** – N.H. State Police, Concord Police and the Central New Hampshire Special Operations Unit participated in an active shooter exercise at the National Guard facility in Concord on March 2, practicing a coordinated response to a major incident. In the exercise scenario, three armed men got onto the National Guard base, killed one person, took others hostage and barricaded themselves in a building. They threatened to set off an explosive unless their demand to talk to the general in charge was met. The exercise was in preparation for a full-scale exercise scheduled to be conducted in May. It is one of a series involving regional police special operations units around the state.

Also taking part in the exercise were the State Police Explosives Disposal Unit, National Guard, Concord Fire and the Division of Emergency Services and Communications.

**HOOKSETT WASTEWATER SPILL AFFECTS RIVER AND COAST** – An accidental spill at the Hooksett wastewater treatment plant on March 6-7 released 300,000 gallons of raw sewage and an estimated 4 million plastic disks into the Merrimack River. The disks, which are used as platforms for bacteria as part of the sewage treatment process, have been washing up along the rivers and on coastal beaches in New Hampshire and Massachusetts ever since.

Cleanup efforts have been underway to collect the disks and the public has been warned not to handle them. HSEM assisted the Department of Environmental Services in coordinating the response with local and state officials and providing information to local emergency management directors. DES said Hooksett is responsible for paying cleanup costs.

**LATE WINTER WEATHER CAUSES MINOR FLOODING** – Late winter rain, augmented by melting snow, brought many small rivers to flood stage March 7-9. The state Emergency Operations Center monitored minor flooding caused by ice jams on the Sugar, Pemigewasset and Contoocook rivers. There was no major damage reported, but the EOC faced the double challenge of monitoring potential flooding and participating in a Vermont Yankee exercise at the same time. Several HSEM staff members were detailed to monitor the weather and flooding issues while most of the staff participated in the exercise.

**FEMA STRENGTHENS RIGHTS OF DISABLED IN DISASTERS** – The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) signed a memorandum of agreement on March 11 that strengthens their growing partnership to ensure that the access and functional needs of people with disabilities are incorporated into all aspects of emergency planning. The signing was hosted by the White House. This agreement ensure that advocates for the NDRN's 57 state and territory affiliates have access to FEMA disaster response offices, including workspace and logistical support, before, during and after a disaster, to be involved in policy decisions and coordinate directly with the entire emergency management team.

**MINOR QUAKE FELT AT HSEM** – A minor earthquake hit close to home for HSEM on March 10. At about 3:02 p.m., HSEM staff and other personnel headquartered at the state Incident Planning and Management Center heard and felt a loud bang. The noise was later confirmed as a magnitude 0.8 earthquake, centered 3 miles SSE of Concord. There was a single shock that caused no injuries or damage to the building.

**HSEM PERSONNEL CHANGES** – The Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management announces the appointment of several new staff members and promotions: Cindy Richard, formerly a senior field representative in the Field Services Section was promoted to assistant chief of the Planning Section. Lance Harbour, hazard mitigation planner in the Planning Section, was promoted to state hazard mitigation officer. Erin Richardson was named an analyst in the Information and Analysis Center. Carl Johnson Jr. was named radiological technician I at the Radiological Instrument Maintenance and Calibration shop. And Sandra Lambert and Elizabeth Peck were named program assistants in the Planning Section. Congratulations to all!

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Keep up with emergency preparedness information in New Hampshire on [www.nh.gov/readynh](http://www.nh.gov/readynh) and [Twitter.com/ReadyNH](https://twitter.com/ReadyNH).