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# NESEC NEWS

Published by the Northeast States Emergency Consortium  
Wakefield, Massachusetts

Connecticut • Maine • Massachusetts • New Hampshire • New Jersey • New York • Rhode Island • Vermont

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Volume 12 Issue 1

[www.nesec.org](http://www.nesec.org)

Winter 2009

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## President Obama Nominates Fugate to Lead FEMA

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*Craig Fugate*

FDEM PHOTO

WASHINGTON, DC – President Obama has nominated Craig Fugate, director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management, to be his new FEMA Administrator.

“From his experience as a first responder to his strong leadership as Florida’s Emergency Manager, Craig has what it takes to help us improve our preparedness, response and recovery efforts and I can think of no one better to lead FEMA. I’m confident that Craig is the right person for the job and will ensure that the failures of the past are never repeated,” President Obama said upon nominating Craig Fugate.

“FEMA must have experienced leadership to succeed in its challenging mission. Craig Fugate is no stranger to emergency management or to FEMA. He is one of the most respected emergency managers in the nation, and the work he’s accomplished in Florida serves as a model for other states to follow. He will be a tremendous asset to FEMA and its employees, and I look forward to working with him,” Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said.

As director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management, Mr. Fugate oversees an agency with 138 full time staff. The division coordinates disaster response, recovery, preparedness and mitigation efforts with each of the state’s 67 counties and local governments.

From volunteer firefighter, to paramedic, to a lieutenant with Alachua County

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## Do You Know Your Flood Risk Profile?

WASHINGTON DC - Did you know that standard homeowners and business insurance policies do not cover flood damage? Nevertheless, it is important to have protection from flooding associated with hurricanes, tropical storms, snowmelt, heavy rains and other conditions that regularly occur in the Northeast.

Fortunately, insurance for flooding is readily available. In 1968, Congress created the National Flood

Insurance Program (NFIP) to help provide a means for property owners to protect themselves. The NFIP offers flood insurance to homeowners, renters and business owners if their community participates in the program. Participating communities agree to adopt and enforce ordinances that meet or exceed FEMA requirements to reduce the risk of flooding.

You can find out more about the

*(continued on page 3)*

In a high-risk area, you have a 26% chance of being flooded during a 30-year mortgage, compared to a 9% chance of fire.

## Northeast Earthquakes Now Reported in Near Real-Time

WESTON, MA - Weston Observatory now operates a seismic monitoring system that is capable of reporting earthquake activity in the northeast in near real time. This system is integrated with the Health & Homeland Alert Network (HHAN) system to rapidly broadcast earthquake information to emergency management users throughout the region.

Within minutes of a possible earthquake, emails and text pages are sent to the Weston Observatory seismology staff. The Weston Observatory seismologists then confirm the event and determine an accurate time, location and magnitude for the earthquake. This information is then sent to MEMA for immediate distribution through HHAN. At the same time, Weston Observatory updates its [New England Seismic Network page](#). The goal is to have seismologist-reviewed earthquake information available to emergency managers within 30 minutes of an earthquake.

For over 75 years, Weston Observatory has monitored earthquakes in New England. Weston Observatory operates instruments for the World-Wide Standardized Seismic Network (WWSSN) and the New England Seismic Network (NESN), a network of broadband seismometers distributed throughout New England. Their site at [www.bc.edu/westonobservatory](http://www.bc.edu/westonobservatory) contains many links to information about earthquakes in the northeastern U.S. and around the world.

For additional information about Weston Observatory, please contact [westonobservatory@bc.edu](mailto:westonobservatory@bc.edu) or call 617-552-8300.



*Real-Time Map of Northeast Earthquakes*

WESTON OBSERVATORY

## Beetle Infestation Requires Special Debris Handling After Storms

WORCESTER, MA - Downed trees, tree limbs, branches and other woody debris generated by recent rain and ice storms within Central Massachusetts's 63-square mile Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) regulated area must be handled in keeping with federal and state rules that protect against the spread of the damaging invasive insect.

Individuals, businesses and municipalities working with trees, nursery stock, cut wood, timber, woody debris, downed tree limbs, or firewood can help save trees by following these rules while addressing the storm damage that lies within the ALB regulated area in Massachusetts. To find a contractor who can handle infested debris, visit the [Massachusetts Introduced Pests Outreach Project](#).



*An Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB)*

MASS DAR

In Massachusetts, regulated materials include firewood of all hardwood species, and green lumber and other material living, dead, cut or fallen inclusive of nursery stock, logs, stumps, roots, branches and debris of a half-inch or more in diameter of all ALB host tree species listed previously; and also the Asian Longhorned Beetle, its larvae or eggs.

The ALB is an invasive pest that arrived in the United States from Asia concealed in solid wood packing material—the pallets and crates used to transport goods from overseas. The ALB infests and kills many species of hardwoods, including maple, horsechestnut, birch, plane-tree, poplar, willow, and elm, making it a serious threat to forest and urban trees alike. If the pest were to move into the forested areas of the United States the maple syrup, timber, tourism and forestry products industries would be significantly impacted.

For additional information about the ALB, visit the [Massachusetts Department of Agriculture](#). If you find an ALB, please report it at 1-866-702-9938 or at <http://mass-nrc.org/pests/albreport.aspx>.

## HAZUS Users Find Help in USEHAZUS Forums

WASHINGTON, DC - The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is proud to announce that the HAZUS Forum and HAZUS Wiki are now live at [www.usehazus.com](http://www.usehazus.com).

The HAZUS Forum enhances interaction and collaboration between FEMA and the HAZUS user community. The forum encourages peer-to-peer technical support and is an outreach tool for the HAZUS User Groups. Academics and GIS professionals will find the Forum to be a very valuable resource.

The HAZUS Wiki is a user-managed website composed of simple-to-edit articles for fast and easy collaboration among users. Users can create categories, and include links to associated projects or data, upload maps or other graphics, and other data along with their content. The Wiki will become a searchable library of HAZUS applications, reports, projects, and lessons learned.

HAZUS Project Managers can utilize the Forum and



### The USEHAZUS Forums

Wiki to identify trends and issues. Both the Forum and Wiki are moderated by USEHAZUS and volunteer leaders from the HAZUS user community, including NESEC.

Start using the HAZUS Forum and Wiki today by visiting [www.usehazus.com](http://www.usehazus.com).

## Fugate Nominated Administrator of FEMA

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Fire Rescue, Fugate's 15 year career in local government includes serving 10 years as the emergency manager for Alachua County, Florida.

In May of 1997, he was appointed chief of the Bureau of Preparedness and Response with the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

In October of 2001, Mr. Fugate was appointed to director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management by Governor Bush. In December 2006, Governor Crist reappointed Fugate as director.

Fugate is a native of Jacksonville, Florida.

## Check Your Flood Risk Profile at Floodsmart.gov

(continued from page 1)

NFIP and how it can help protect your by taking the Online Flood Risk Profile at [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov). The profile will analyze your property's flood risk, calculate your estimated premiums, and even provide you with a list of local flood insurance agents serving your area.

Please note that FloodSmart.gov flood risk profiles are meant to be used as advisory tools for general flood hazard awareness and education. Flood risk profiles are not a legal document and should not be used in place of an official flood zone hazard determination. For more information on the National Flood Insurance Program, call FEMA at 1-800-427-4661, or visit [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov).

## New Jersey: Resolve to be Ready in 2009

WEST TRENTON, NJ - In coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's *Resolve to be Ready in 2009* campaign, Colonel Rick Fuentes, Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police and Director of the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management, is encouraging residents to make a New Year's resolution for preparedness and create an emergency kit and plan for the home and workplace.

There are several things that residents can do to prepare for the unexpected, as well as reduce stress and confusion during an actual emergency. The basics of preparedness for virtually all hazards are the same. Following the appropriate steps and being ready "now" means that residents will be ready for any disaster or crisis.

"Planning and preparation are the key steps to safety. By making a New Year's resolution to create an appropriate emergency plan for yourself, your family or place of business, you are readying your environment for any potential emergency," added Fuentes.

For more in depth information regarding emergency preparedness and planning please log on to: <http://www.ready.nj.gov/plan/kit-plan.html>.

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You can make your donation for your free gift using PayPal or credit card at: [www.nesec.org/news/co\\_alarm.cfm](http://www.nesec.org/news/co_alarm.cfm). You can also send a check or money order, payable to "NESEC", to:

*The Northeast States Emergency Consortium,  
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