

PANEL DISCUSSION: DEC. 13, 2007 “TRAFFIC NIGHTMARE” SNOWSTORM

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From the National Weather Service – Taunton, MA...

The first winter storm of the 2007-2008 winter season brought 8 to 12 inches of snow to metro Boston, as low pressure formed over the mid Atlantic states and tracked southeast of New England. Snow began to fall around midday on December 13th and quickly became heavy, with most of the snow falling in an 8 hour period which coincided with the evening rush hour. Although forecasts were highly accurate as early as two days in advance, the rapid onset of the storm caught many people off guard and led to a standstill on area roadways.

From the Greater Boston Federal Executive Board...

“DECISION-MAKING DURING WEATHER-RELATED EMERGENCIES: BALANCING THE SAFETY OF YOUR WORKFORCE VS. ECONOMIC IMPACT”

The Federal Government is the Nation’s largest employer and the first or second largest in many metropolitan areas, including Massachusetts. In times of emergency, we have a responsibility to collaborate and act uniformly as “one” government to ensure the safety and protection of our employees while also ensuring that the essential business of Government continues.

More than 90,000 people work for the Federal government in approximately 150 Federal agencies in Massachusetts and their safety is always our top priority. The Greater Boston Federal Executive Board’s All Hazards Emergency Decision and Notification Plan assists Federal agency leaders with obtaining up-to-date, accurate and consistent information during emergencies in order to make informed decisions relative to the Federal workforce. The December 13, 2007 winter storm posed a unique set of circumstances that taught every employer a lesson in decision-making.

From the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency...

MEMA is the State Emergency Management Agency. It is based out of Framingham MA with three Regional Office. MEMA is charged with coordinating the States response in times of Emergency and large planned events. MEMA coordinates with every State Agency, all 351 communities, the New England Region States, the Federal Government, Nationwide through the EMAC agreement and Internationally through the IEMAC Agreement. MEMA writes and enacts all the State Level Response plans along with assisting all 351 communities in writing their plans. In the December 13th Storm MEMA coordinated the Decision making process and then made official recommendations to the Governors Office.

From SmartRoute Systems, Inc. ...

“Gridlock Storm – The Impact on Boston’s Highway System”

The storm of Dec 13, 2007 was unprecedented in its impact on Boston area traffic. It caused gridlock at a level never previously experienced in the metro Boston area. The 511 Operations Center had a unique and complete perspective on the impact on the highway system as they unfolded, from beginning to end.

PRESENTERS’ BIOS

Joe DelliCarpini is the Science and Operations Officer at the National Weather Service in Taunton, MA. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Meteorology from the State University of New York at Oswego in 1991. His career with the National Weather Service began as a Student Trainee in Boston before going to the Binghamton, NY office as a Meteorologist Intern. He returned to southern New England in 1996 as a Hydrologic Forecaster at the Northeast River Forecast Center in Taunton, before heading back to the Weather Forecast Office as both a General Forecaster and Senior Forecaster.

Joe lives in Norwood with his wife, Kelly, and their two children, Jessica and Jason.

Kimberly E. Ainsworth was appointed as the Executive Director of the Greater Boston Federal Executive Board in October 1998. As Executive Director, Ainsworth is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Federal Executive Board. She leads the implementation, planning and program management of all activities and programs under the two FEB’s two lines of business and acts as chief advisor to the Board of Directors.

Ms. Ainsworth received a Bachelor’s Degree in Communications from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1991 and a Master of Science degree in Human Resources Development from Northeastern in 1996. She began her Federal career as a Presidential Management Intern with the Environmental Protection Agency in 1996.

Ms. Ainsworth’s position is funded by the US Department of Homeland Security Immediate Office of the Secretary. In 2005, Ainsworth was awarded the *Chair’s Award for Leadership* for her work on developing a first-of-its kind Federal Executive Board interagency Emergency Decision and Notification Plan.

David Glazebrook is currently the Operations Manager for the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency. In this capacity Dave enacts State Plans in response to State Emergencies, coordinates State resources to help with local emergencies and is in charge of MEMA Response and Communications. Dave spent 13 years as an Active Duty Army Officer and is a Veteran of the Iraq War and the Peace Keeping Mission in the Sinai Peninsula, Egypt. Dave has an Undergraduate Degree in Criminology Sociology from Colorado State University and a Masters of Business from the University of Phoenix.

Jeff Larson is the General Manager for SmartRoute Systems, which manages the 511 Information System for Mass Highway. He has been with SRS for 17 years overseeing Operations and acting as a Traffic Reporter for WCVB TV Channel 5 as well as various other media outlets.