

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

**Stephen J. Rocco, Director**  
**Paul McNiff, Deputy Director and CERT Coordinator**

The Town of Shrewsbury's Emergency Management personnel include Steve Rocco, Director, Paul McNiff, Deputy Director and CERT Coordinator, Aaron Roy, LEPC Coordinator, and Angela Snell, Public Information Officer (PIO).

The Town's Emergency Management Preparedness Team met four times during 2018 with the explicit intent on conducting Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) emergency management related table top scenarios/exercises. On June 21st, the appointed SEMA Director was sworn in for an additional year due to expire June 30, 2019.

The School Department's Building Assessment Team (BAT), which includes members of the Shrewsbury Police Department, Fire Department, Buildings Department, and the SEMA Director during the interim March-June 2017, conducted safety and security inspections of all ten-school sites, with a particular emphasis on active shooter scenarios. Continued enhancements relative to safety and security procedures and technology improvements (upgraded public address systems with remote capability to announce emergency response protocols and notifications were made at the following schools; Parker Road, Spring St, Paton, Coolidge, Oak Middle School and Sherwood Middle School. Active Shooter training, Lockdown drills, Hurricane, Tornado, and Fire drills were conducted on a quarterly basis at all school locations. Recommendations, building modifications, and improvements were well received and implemented at the various school sites relative to increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of these drills.

During the interim February-May 2018, members of SEMA, the Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, Department Heads, and various Community Members partnered with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and conducted workshops for its Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grant program. This grant program provides up to \$50,000 for municipalities or groups of municipalities to conduct community resilience-building workshops. An in-kind local match is required.

Conducted by certified trainers, these workshops helped communities to define extreme weather and natural and climate-related hazards, identify existing and future vulnerabilities and strengths, develop and prioritize actions for the municipality and broader stakeholder networks, and identify opportunities for the municipality to advance actions to reduce risks and build resilience. The Town of Shrewsbury successfully completed the MVP Program, and was subsequently awarded "MVP Community" status, which may lead to increased standing in future state funding opportunities.

During June 2018 members of SEMA attended the 4rd Annual Region 2 Health and Medical Emergency Preparedness Conference: Mass Gathering and Their Impact on Public Health and Healthcare. Topics included regional response to large scale disease outbreaks, large scale medical response to stadium or large

capacity social events, and self-contained medical preparations for national level events.

During November 2018, SEMA members attended the Massachusetts All Hazards Emergency Preparedness Conference. The conference hosted over 600 local, state, federal, private and non-profit sector emergency management and public safety professionals for two days of networking, discussions, education, and presentations by renowned professionals. Interactive presentations, plenary, panel and breakout sessions, experts in Cyberterrorism, Active Shooter Response, Environmental Protection, and Natural Disasters and will showcase and share model practices, tools and technologies, and lessons learned.

The Shrewsbury Emergency Management Agency will continue to address issues around preparedness and training and the Town's Emergency Preparedness Team will continue to meet on a regular basis to stay current on these and other emergency-related issues.